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75¢

2 brothers land in hospital after playing with gun. PAGE 6
Cabrera clan wins holiday lights, decorating contest. PAGE 10

NMBAC: Alternate visas not ideal

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'CW-1 program is backup plan'

Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. said yesterday that alternate visas to be utilized in the stead of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa was not ideal for business models in the CNMI, whose economy relies heavily on the tourism and hospitality industry.

According to NMBAC chair Alex Sablan, 75 percent of the CNMI economy consists of small to medium businesses that did not have the budget to utilize alternate visas or entice U.S.-eligible workers to move to the CNMI for work. Additionally, alternate visas such as the H visas are temporary, Sablan said, adding that Guam was having trouble with workforce labor issues as well under the H

See NMBAC on Page 4

RELATED NEWS
- 'Big businesses might survive, small businesses won't'

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Kilili working with USCIS on misclassification of CWs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) will take any specific cases of CNMI-Only Transitional Worker applicants misclassified as new construction workers to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for review.

USCIS has already issued permits for applications initially rejected, after the congressman worked with the applicant and the agency to get further consideration. Sablan

See KILILI on Page 4

BACK ON SAIPAN
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
The *Okeanos Marianas* crew poses for a picture after arriving from their eight-day journey from Yap.

See story on Page 3

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Neil Fama, 7th CNMI Got Talent grand prizewinner (fourth from the right), poses for a photo with the event's judges after being awarded $2,500 Wednesday night at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall.

2017 CNMI'S GOT TALENT

Fama bags grand prize and Governor's Choice

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Northern Marianas College student bagged the 2017 CNMI's Got Talent grand prize award and the Governor's Choice award Wednesday night.

During Bridge Capital's 7th Annual CNMI's Got Talent, Neil Fama took home $4,000. He was awarded $1,500 by earning the Governor's Choice award and another $2,500 by earning the CNMI's Got Talent grand prize award.

The 19-year-old college student is an aspiring magician and has been practicing magic for a year now and

See FAMA on Page 4

NOTICE

There will be no issue of *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 25/26, 2017 and Jan. 1/2, 2018.

Happy holidays!

INSIDE

LOCAL
Green Meadow School's talent and teamwork were in full display as the Falcons participated in the various activities at the Christmas in the Marianas.

PAGE 22

BUSINESS
A triumphant President Donald Trump and jubilant fellow Republicans celebrated the passage of their $1.5 trillion tax overhaul Wednesday.

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LIFE & STYLE
Marianas Visitors Authority and other organizers of the Christmas in The Marianas celebration invite the public to Paseo de Marianas this Saturday, Dec. 23, for another night of festivities.

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Local

DPS eyes extended coverage

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is focusing on extending coverage through establishing and opening up new stations for addressing public safety concerns in the other reaches of Saipan.

According to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero, DPS is eyeing to open new stations at the San Antonio, Koblerville, and the Dandan areas. Earlier this week, DPS' new substation in San Roque held its ribbon cutting ceremony in efforts to improve response times in the north.

"Our response to the northern [area] have always been delayed due to the geographical location," Guerrero said in a statement. "We already [had stations opened] at Kagman and Chalan Kanoa," he added, also extending appreciation to the Department of Corrections Commissioner Vincent Attao, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and the seven inmates that helped renovate the former Public Health Dispensary into the new substation.

"I hope that this would take care of a lot of the immediate calls pertaining to the north side," said Torres. "I am sure that they feel a lot safe by having police officers going around the area," he added.

According to Guerrero, the substation would be manned by about eight officers and

See DPS on Page 4

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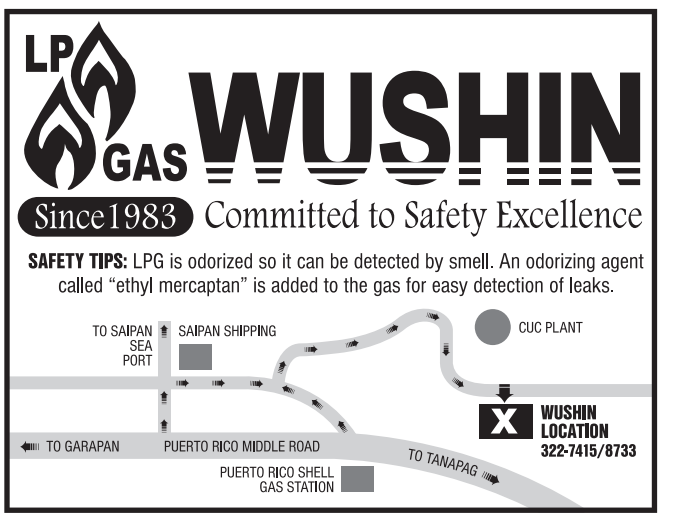
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Okeanos Marianas back on Saipan

The *Okeanos Marianas* finally returned to Saipan yesterday after a delay due to weather conditions.

The double-hulled Polynesian canoe was originally set to arrive on Saipan on Wednesday noon, but harsh weather conditions delayed the *vaka motu's* arrival by 20 hours.

According to 500 Sails executive director Pete Perez, he and his companions on the voyage were stuck off the north coast of Rota for 20 hours because the weather would not let up and the winds blew against the direction they needed to go.

Perez said the voyage to Yap was much easier and was also monumental because one of the Okeanos Foundation for the Sea employee Steve Tawake led the voyage using traditional navigation for the first time.

According to Perez, he learned more about sailing during his voyage to and from Yap that he will use with the Carolinian and Chamorro canoes that are yet to be built at 500 Sails.

"I've been a sailor since I was a kid but never an open ocean and blue water sailor and now I learned a lot about conditions and a lot about how to handle the sail to make the boat more manageable and that's going to apply directly to our Chamorro and Carolinian canoes that we make," he said.

During the Yap Summit, it was discussed that the ancient trade routes used by ancient Chamorros and ancient Carolinians to get to the neighbor islands are slowly opening up and will connect the islands again through a network of canoes. "They're opening up as the canoes appear," said Perez.

According to Perez, it was discussed that the next to receive *vaka motu* like the *Okeanos Marianas* would be Palau and then Yap would follow.

See OKEANOS on Next Page

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ON CW CRISIS

'Big businesses might survive, small businesses won't'

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

BEA CABRERA

From left, Gloria Cavanagh, Alex Sablan, Velma Palacios, Viola Alepuyo, and Josephine Mesta, officers and members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. who went to Washington, D.C. to lobby for a legislation that is viable to the CNMI economy, at yesterday's Society for Human Resource Management meeting.

This is the reality that the members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. shared at the general meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management held yesterday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

"This is not a situation of local vs. CW. We are not an island of just Chamorros and Carolinians or U.S. citizens and this makes us the absolute melting pot of the U.S. Our neighbors are our families and sadly this law is tearing our families apart. We need to put differences aside, find a common ground, and start working together," said NMBAC board member Viola Alepuyo

"The big businesses might be able to survive, the small businesses won't and when they don't survive, it's going to hurt all of us," she added.

According to Alepuyo, the dynamics in the Commonwealth is unique as everything is connected. When one end is hurting, the other end will experience the same.

"There's a hotel where half of their employees, all CWs, have not gotten approval from the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services. This hotel is already talking about closing down. The other half of their workforce are U.S. citizens so when those foreign workers go home, guess what happens to those U.S. citizens workers? They lose their jobs," she said.

"When the hotel closes down guess what happens to the small businesses that provide services to the hotel? They lose a customer and may close down. It's a domino effect," she said.

NMBAC officer Velma Palacios said that small businesses should be a concern as a lot of the small businesses don't have the tools or provisions that the big businesses have.

"Small businesses do not have human resources personnel to assist them and a lot of their workers do not qualify for H-1 visas so they have to use the CW-1 program," she said.

"Just this morning I met with three businesses that have been here in the CNMI for over 20 years. They were all contemplating the worst such as closing their businesses because some have already received denials and some still have not received any word from USCIS. It is a shame to see them close," she added.

Palacios said what NMBAC is fighting for is the CNMI economy and the non-closure of the small businesses.

"We get a lot of negative comments like 'oh we don't need CW workers' but people have to realize we need both—sufficient workforce and an economy," she said.

"We do not have that many workers to fill all the jobs that we have right now and a lot of positions that are open but people don't prefer to be in that position," she added.

Alepuyo said that the NMBAC's role is to educate because decision makers in the mainland do not know how it is to live in the CNMI.

"The United States of America hundreds of years ago did not have an economy to speak of. Whether you call them foreign workers or immigrants, they are the same thing. People from other countries came in order to help you build. That's what happened to the U.S.," she said.

"Our economy, our Commonwealth is in its infancy compared to the U.S. Unfortunately, we have to work under their rules more so sometimes, they make decisions without consulting us. So we are here to educate and we will keep doing it," she added.

NMBAC

From Page 1

visas due to this fact.

"…The visas don't make too much sense for their business model. An H2B visa is a temporary job. In Guam, the reason the H2B visa system has collapsed is because the USCIS came in and made a determination that the contractors using [H2B] laborers in their businesses were deemed …permanent because they had jobs here and there and weren't project specific," he said, adding that Guam has been using the H visa to repair homes, renovating homes, etc.

Sablan said that the same thing would pan out in the CNMI should H visas be utilized as the main visa for the foreign workforce.

"If you take the same rationale, [CNMI foreign workers] are not temporary. They are being used for day-to-day operations, 365 days a year," he said. "Trying to transition people into the H visa-—in our view—would be difficult because we aren't dealing with temporary workers here; we need them all year round."

When asked if a backup plan was present just in case the CW-1 program expires, Sablan responded, "The CW-1 program is the backup plan."

"There wasn't an alternate visa system that would translate to a workforce that is needed year-round," he said. "Plan B is to reinstate what was already known—that this Commonwealth would need to have extensions on the foreseeable future because we just do not have enough U.S. citizens on the ground. There is no alternate plan B beyond that because…small businesses do not have the opportunity to recruit in the U.S. and bring them out here," he said.

The NMBAC chair, who is also an active member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said that there are an estimated 1,200 rooms on the way on Saipan this coming 2018.

"These hotels are going to need workers. We do not have the numbers to supply that workforce," Sablan said.

According to NMBAC member and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh, H visas work well in the mainland U.S. more than the CNMI. She said that the mainland had something called the "crab season," where H visas were perfect for the temporary hiring of skilled fisherman for a certain period of time.

"This is exactly why the CW-1 visa was created, because such types of visas just don't work because of our environment and location," she said.

Fruit of NMBAC's door knocking efforts

NMBAC chair Sablan said yesterday that efforts to extend the CW-1 program were greeted with assurance.

"I heard from US Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) office and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) office that they understand the importance of the [CW-1 program]," he said, adding that the Congressmen recognized that there was a need for extension. "I think we've got assurances that something will soon be done; how quickly is the most important thing here because we are in a time crunch."

"We are feverishly trying to get something accomplished."

According to chair Sablan, NMBAC has also been assured by most of those they have talked to that they would "get something done."

"How quickly that comes, we just don't know," he said.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, discussions with Murkowski, who was reportedly willing to introduce the bill to extend the CW-1 program, were more focused on the parameters of the extension.

NMBAC not only advocated for the extension of the CW-1 program beyond 2019 but also supported and testified for Torres in his quest for seeking a reprieve from the 3,000 reduction of CW-1 slots for fiscal year 2018.

When asked for an update, Torres, who was also present at the press conference, said that the date NMBAC provided to the members of U.S. Congress resulted with the congressmen opting to "gather more information on their side."

Torres said that with the presentation of NMBAC, it gave the U.S. congressmen an opportunity to "hopefully revisit the 3,000 [reduction] and come out with a better number.

"There is no absolute assurance for the [reprieve], but I believe it gave them a better sense of understanding of how critical the 3,000 is and move forward with the reduction," he said.

KILILI

From Page 1

explained this success in a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday and asked the governor to send any similar cases to the congressional office for assistance.

Sablan also sent a copy of his letter to Torres to the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.

In the letter, Sablan said he agreed with Torres that the bar on gardeners, hotel maintenance workers, and even Commonwealth Utility Corp. engineers appears inconsistent with the intent of Public Law 115-53.

"Please send me these specific cases or any others in which a permit applicant believes that misclassification as a new construction worker has occurred. I will promptly refer the case to USCIS as a congressional inquiry to help ensure it receives timely and thorough review," he wrote.

Sablan added that the congressional office in fact has already managed three such cases. In two the misclassification was corrected and the permits awarded. A decision in the third case is pending.

"As you know, the intent of Public Law 115-53 was to protect our local business people, who depend on CW workers, from the flood of new construction workers that began in 2016 and used up as many as 5,000 CW permits. I will continue to do all I can to prevent harm to our local business community or legacy CW workers, as I have with the cases already brought to me for help," Sablan ended his letter to Torres.

To obtain congressional assistance on immigration or any other matter regarding the federal government, contact the congressional office on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota or go to https://sablan.house.gov/serving-you/help-federal-agency. All cases are handled with complete confidentiality. ***(PR)***

FAMA

From Page 1

this was the first time he performed his tricks in a competition like the CNMI's Got Talent.

Fama's year of practice was well worth it because he completely amazed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres with his prepared tricks.

Fama said it took a lot of time out of his day to perfect his tricks and he even took lessons from professional magician Leon Etienne from the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sand Castle.

"It takes a lot of time and practice…I've been studying books, online tutorials, and from Leon Etienne… a handful of the tricks I performed were thanks to him," he said.

Fama performs in many events including birthdays and school functions. He is still training to further develop his craft despite the challenges that comes with magic.

"So right now I am still in training. It is very difficult but it is all worth it," he said.

According to Fama, his dream is to travel the world and bring happiness through the art of magic.

Karen Lagunay, the first runner-up who came in tied with Fama, took home $1,500. She is a performer from Tinian and was sponsored to travel to Saipan by Star Marianas.

Lagunay also took home $500 for winning the special award called best in Tinian by default.

The second runner-up was singer Lawrence Tubera who took home $1,000, third runner-up was The Band Nearby who took home $750, and the fourth runner-up was soccer enthusiast Joel Fruit who took home $500.

OKEANOS

From Page 3

Perez said that during the summit, he came to the realization that he wants diversity in the canoes 500 Sails will build. 500 Sails will not solely build Chamorro canoes anymore, they will also start building Carolinian canoes and canoes that he saw during the Yap Summit.

Aside from Perez and Tawake, Jason Aldan, Andrea Carr, Jerry Joseph, Leo Pangelinan, India Tabellini, Sesario Sewralur, and Cecilio Raiukiuliriy were on the *Okeanos Marianas* voyage back to Saipan. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

DPS

From Page 2

would be open 24 hours.

"[The substation] is a place where people can file reports, similar to the main station," he said.

"We always try to bring community policing down [to the people], so San Roque being the center of Tanapag, Marpi, and the As Matuis area is why we chose to place the substation here," he added.

The rehabilitation program that was initiated for inmates seeking to be reinserted into society with a viable set of skills and experiences allowed inmates to expand their knowledge.

"We want to expand also the inmate's scope of work and have them out and practicing it. Especially now when we are short on labor, it shows that they can be productive members of the society. Seeing this and having them work together collaboratively, I am optimistic that they are able to come out and participate in the workforce of the community," said Torres, adding that he was happy that the program was working.

Woman nearly drowns in Managaha

A 71-year-old Chinese woman almost drowned last Wednesday after falling in knee-deep water in the waters off Managaha Island.

The Department of Public Safety said its officers responded to a near drowning on the tourist hotspot at 10:35am Wednesday.

The victim was transported from Managaha Island by a Tasi Tour boat to Smiling Cove Marina.

The victim arrived at Smiling Cove at 10:56am where Boating Safety, Koban officers, and Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services personnel were standing by.

The victim was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center, where she was held overnight for observation.

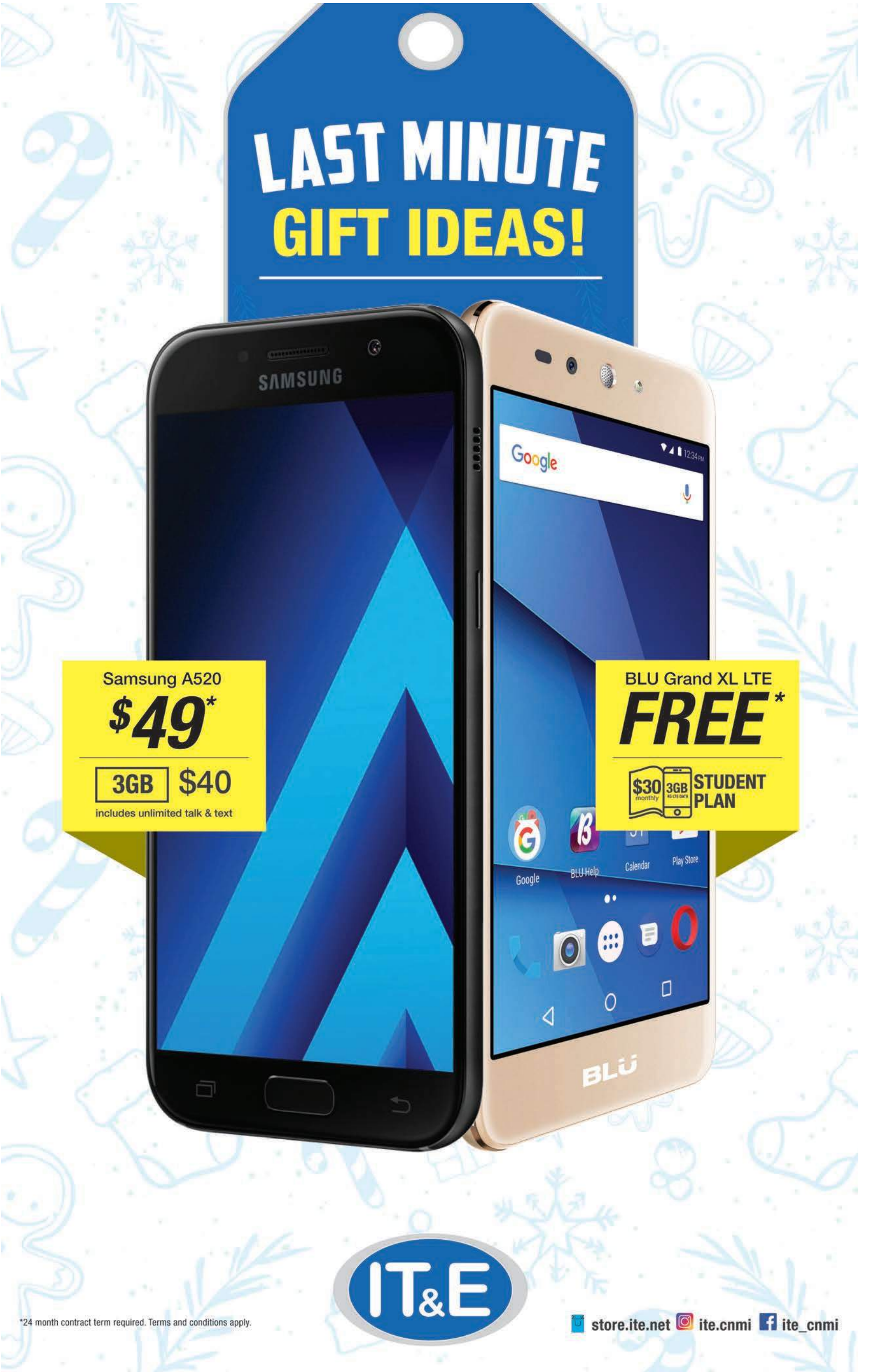
According to her daughter, the victim was walking in "knee-deep" water when she suddenly fell. Although she took in a large amount of water she never lost consciousness. The victim has since been released from the hospital.

A day earlier on Tuesday, a 62-year-old Chinese male drowned in the waters off Managaha Island.

Zhang Shizhao was pronounced dead 12:06pm Tuesday at the CHC after resuscitation efforts to revive him failed.

According to the victim's son, he along with his mother and father went into waist-deep water all wearing life jackets and began snorkeling.

All of a sudden Zhang's mask came off and he began coughing. They helped him go back to shore where Zhang lost consciousness. The victim's son said his father had a heart bypass four years ago and he was using a pacemaker. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



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2 brothers land in hospital after playing with cop's gun

Two brothers ages 20 and 18 years old sustained gunshot wounds yesterday after one of them played with a pistol left in a vehicle they borrowed from a now fired officer of the Department of Public Safety.

Police said that at approximately 3:17am yesterday, a patrol unit made contact with three men occupying a Silver Hyundai Tucson. The vehicle was located just west of Twins Supermarket along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero. After initial inspection, the officer requested an ambulance to the scene as the occupant in the backseat, as well as the front passenger, had sustained gunshot wounds from a Glock 22 pistol.

» DPS fires cop whose pistol was used in accident

According to the driver, the three men are related to the owner of the Hyundai, a DPS police officer, who gave them permission to use the vehicle. The officer's firearm was still in the vehicle when the men borrowed the car to travel to Twins Supermarket in lower Dandan for snacks.

While the car was in motion, the backseat passenger, who was seated behind the driver and the youngest of the three brothers, began playing with the firearm, causing it to discharge. The bullet grazed his leg, penetrated the back of his 20-year-old brother sitting in the front passenger seat, before exiting the latter's chest on the left side. After the weapon was discharged, the driver pulled over where they were then contacted by DPS.

At approximately 3:27am, both passengers were transported to the Commonwealth Health Center. The backseat passenger was treated and released. The front passenger is in stable condition and is under observation.

Although no arrests have been made, police said the officer is no longer with DPS and the case is pending further investigation. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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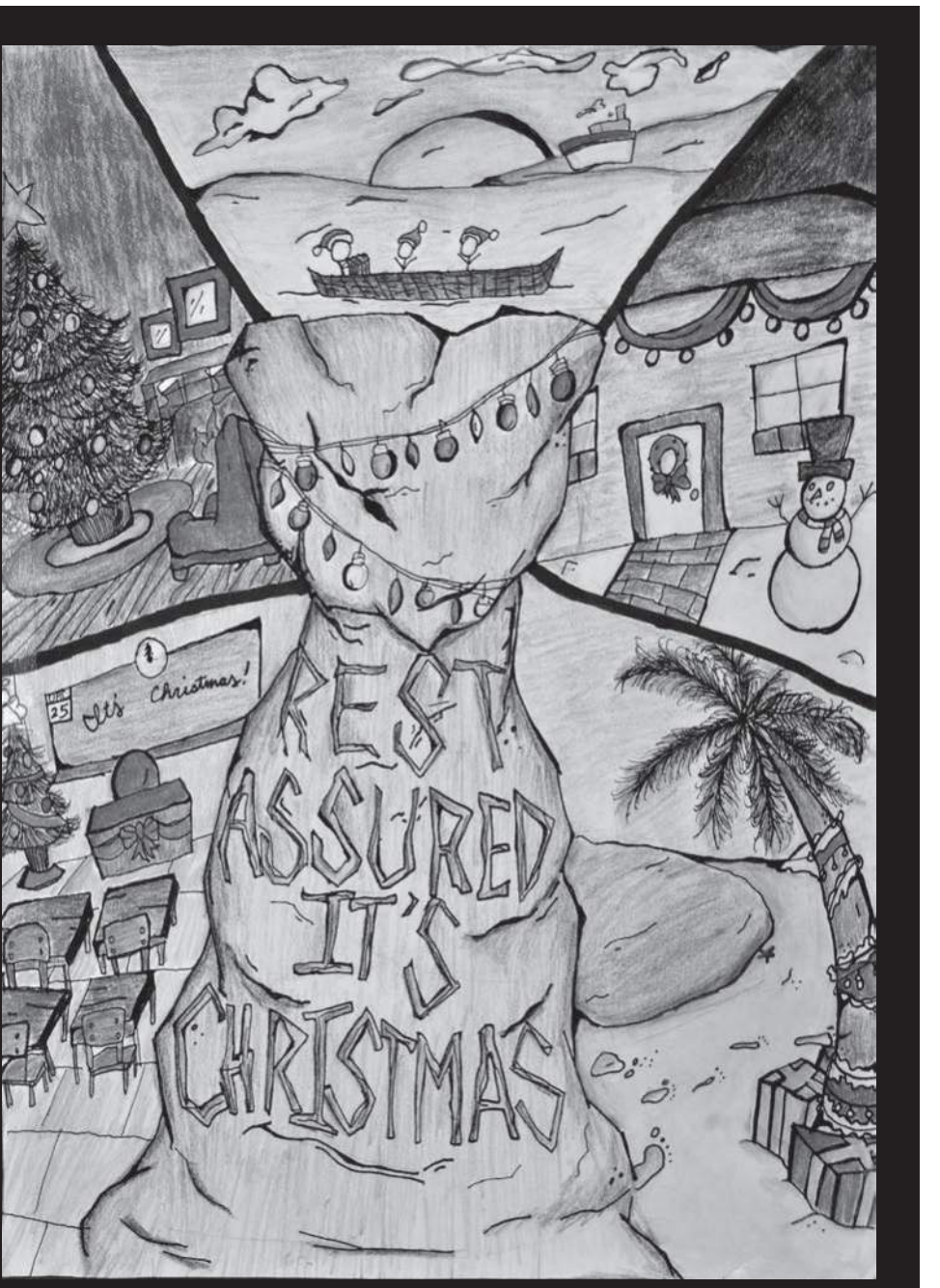

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F150 XL 2WD	GKF37860	WHITE	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68426	WHITE	$4,000
F150 XL 2WD	HKC68428	WHITE	$5,000
F150 XLT SPORT	SOLD	RED	$6,000
EXPLORER XLT SPORT	HGC16261	BLACK	$4,000
EXPLORER XLT 4WD	GGB38168	WHITE	$6,000

NISSAN

	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
ROGUE S FWD	SOLD	BLUE	$3,000
ROGUE SPORT S 2WD	SOLD	SILVER	$3,000
QUEST SV FWD	H9170425	WHITE	$4,000
FRONTIER SV 4WD	HN762025	WHITE	$4,000
ALTIMA SV FWD	HC126488	SILVER	$4,000
PATHFINDER S 2WD	HC672614	WHITE	$5,000
TITAN SV 4WD	HN549603	SILVER	$6,000
ARMADA SV 4WD	H9503293	SILVER	$6,000

KIA

	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
SOUL LX FWD	SOLD	SILVER	$2,000
SOUL LX FWD	H7497104	ORANGE	$2,000
SOUL LX FWD	SOLD	GREEN	$2,500
RIO FWD	G6591553	RED	$2,500
RIO LX FWD	H6034826	YELLOW	$3,000
SPORTAGE LX 2WD	H7293412	RED	$3,500
SPORTAGE EX 2WD	H7111888	BLUE	$4,000
CADENZA PREMIUM	G5200547	GRAY	$5,000

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2017 Honda HR-V LX 2WD MT retail price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $335.29 or $154.75 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year.
2017 Honda Civic LX retail price $21,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of $335.29 or $154.75 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year.

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Christmas deals are here

Three days before Christmas, the season of gift giving is here with many Christmas sales to match! Give your loved ones presents to remember while saving loads of cash with these Christmas deals.

DFS T Galleria

The DFS T. Galleria is offering a whooping 50-percent off on selected fashion items with some brand exclusion. Take advantage of this Christmas sale while supplies last.

Joeten's Truckload Store

Christmas is truly here with Joeten's Truckload Store sale! All bicycles, tricycles, and toys are 15-percent off this Christmas season. In addition, the Truckload Store is also offering 10-percent off all television sets 40 inches or larger and Brentwood electric kettles, and major discounts on home decors, and various kitchen appliances! Joeten's Truckload store will be open from Thursday to Friday and on New Year's Eve.

Town House

Town House is cutting back big this Christmas. Town House is offering major discounts on all furniture, appliances, decorations, and more. Financing is available through Express Financial and a free mystery gift is given with each purchase. Promo ends on Dec. 31.

PHI Pharmacy

PHI Pharmacy invites the community to take advantage of their pharmaceutical sale this holiday season. PHI is offering 35-percent off all supplements, vitamins, and sports nutritional products. A 25-percent sale will also be applied on all over the counter items, and 50-percent off selected items. Sales apply for both PHI branches. PHI is open from Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm and Saturday to Sunday from 8am to 4pm.

Paradise Dental Center

The Paradise Dental Center is offering great deals on a number of services. Teeth whitening will be $150, crown and veneers will be $495 (each), dentures will be $550 per denture, partials will be $725 per partial, implants will be $3,000 (from initial surgery, to abutment, to finished crown), and a new patient promo at $49 (exam, digital x-ray, and cleaning). Call Paradise Dental today at 234-4040 and save big.

Iridescent and Pena House

The Iridescent and Pena House boutiques are inviting you to visit them this holiday season and get up to 50-percent off selected clothing and accessories. All sales are final, no returns or exchange.

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Aqua Resort Club Saipan

Saipan Aqua Resort Club's newest restaurant, Kevin's, is inviting the public to try their mouth-watering Christmas menus that feature Black Mountain Prime Rib, Aurora Salmon Fillet, Hokkkaido Sea Scallops, and more at a reasonable price. The special starts today and ends on Christmas day so Call Kevin's at 322-1234 for reservations.

IT&E

For all those last-minute shoppers, check out the IT&E stores for their holiday offers. The Samsung A520 is only $49 this holiday season with a $40 plan that includes unlimited talk, text, and 3GB of data; and the Blu Grande XL LTE is free with a $30 student plan. Terms and conditions apply.

Docomo Pacific

Docomo is helping you save big this holiday season. Docomo is offering up to 50-percent off a wide selection of in-store accessories. Sale ends on Dec. 31 so visit the nearest Docomo store.

Grandvrio Resort Saipan

The Tropicana Restaurant invites you to enjoy their Christmas Eve dinner buffet from 5:30pm to 9pm for $35 ($28 locals), and their Christmas Brunch from 11am to 2pm for as low as $32 ($28 locals). Enjoy their special Christmas menu that includes ham, rib eye, seafood, sushi, and sashimi with your choice of champagne or beer. For reservations or inquiries, call 237-2527.

Kanoa Resort Saipan

Celebrate Christmas with your loved ones with a mouthwatering buffet at the Kanoa Resort's Isla Café. Enjoy traditional roasted turkey, baked ham leg, roasted pig, tuna sashimi, and more with your choice of beverage. The buffet starts at 11am to 2pm at $30 for adults and $15 for children 4 to 11. Resident discount applied with a valid CNMI ID. Call for reservations at 234-6601 ext. 742/743.

Hyatt Regency Saipan

No plans for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? Don't worry; Hyatt Regency Saipan has got you covered. Choose from Hyatt's list of restaurants like the Giovanni's, Kili & Terrace, Miyako, or Teppanyaki. Hyatt is also offering meals to go courtesy of the DJ's Corner, and Soothing Botanicals at the i Sagua Spa. Please call the Hyatt Regency Saipan for additional information.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

World Café wants to help you give your loved ones a Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Years to remember with special dinner buffets and brunches. For additional information and reservations feel free to call Fiesta at 234-6414 ext. 1548. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

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GRANDVRIO RESORT SAIPAN
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Amazing special menu including Ham, Rib Eye, Seafood, Sushi, Sashimi, Champagne, Budweiser...
Breakfast: 7:00am - 10:00am Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast Buffet $19 Sunday Brunch Reg.: $29 (Local: $25) Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25) Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet Reg.: $35 (Local: $28)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Christmas Brunch Reg.: $32 (Local: $28) New Year Brunch Reg.: $32 (Local: $28) New Year Dinner Buffet Reg.: $35 (Local: $28)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Buffet Lunch Reg.: $20 (Local: $17) Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $19	Breakfast Buffet $19 Buffet Lunch Reg.: $20 (Local: $17) Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)

RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan)
has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu ($8~) and the Signature Gourmet Food - authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki ($38) and the Osech Set ($19). Enjoy the Spectacular Ocean View and Sunset! from 10th Floor! **Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri.; EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT! $14 only, 15 servings per day; "First In First Out!"**
Opening time:
Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm
Last Order: 1:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm
Last Order: 8:30pm

StarLight BBQ
Dinner Buffet Location:
Poolside Price: Reg. AD $39 CH: $19
(Local: AD $35/ CH $17)
Business Hours: 6pm-9pm
Menu: "All you can eat & drink"
Beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.
Additional champagne

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Business Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm
Pizza Set ($15.00) available now!
Christmas cake now available for booking! Flavour: Chocolate
Price: small: $21 medium: $36

POOL SIDE BAR
Business Hours: 1pm-10pm
Last Order: 9:30pm
Happy Hour: 4pm - 7pm
20% Discount available for all drinks including cocktails!

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Cabrera clan wins holiday lights, decorating contest

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. resurrected a 20-year-old tradition by holding a Holiday Lights and Decorating Contest where residents from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were encouraged to participate.

Kagman 3 residents J.J. and Betty Ann Cabrera yesterday were awarded first place in the 2017 CUC Holiday Lights and Decorating Contest at the CUC main office in Dandan.

Concepcion

Their concept of holiday lights and decoration impressed the judges the most who went all around the island last Dec. 19 to see all the participating residents.

According to Betty Ann Cabrera, putting up the lights is their family's way of honoring God.

"This is our way to give thanks and honor to God. At the same time, we wanted to put smiles into people's hearts and bring joy to people's lives. That is all we are after," she said.

The judging committee was composed of Marianas Visitors Authority executive director Chris Concepcion, first lady Diann Torres, *Marianas Variety* president Laila Boyer, Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschnieder, and *Saipan Tribune* reporter Bea Cabrera.

Concepcion said that the Cabrera residence had the most outstanding Christmas lights and decors.

"It was very difficult having to judge each of he houses as they were all decked out with lots of lights and were all beautiful. There were a few houses that stood out and all the judges agree that the Cabrera residence in Kagman was the most outstanding," he said.

The participants were judged based on creativity, most lit and decorated, originality, best overall, and bonus points if the family Christmas tree is visible from the front of the house.

Second place went to Catherine Pangelinan and John Lisua of Mihaville in Garapan and third place went to Freddy and Dorina Salavaria of San Vicente.

Tinian winners are Agnes Borja (1st place), Joann Pangelinan (2nd place), and Jeffrey Barr (3rd place), while Rota winners are Rose de la Cruz (1st place), Laura and Vernon Manglona (2nd place), and Lea Maratita (3rd place).

CUC executive director Gary Camacho said they learned a lot holding this contest for the first time.

"A lot of the information that I got was from a conversation I had with the first lady because this activity was something that was contemplated in the past. We are happy to do this and we are in a way extend the spirit of Christmas," he said.

"We would like to thank everyone who participated, many of you are really nice and some really had that wow factor. Thank you to all the CUC staff thank you for being involved and making this happen. Same with our staff on Tinian and Rota," he added

Camacho said CUC is looking at opening the contest to commercial entities and adding categories next year. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

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Another $5000 instant lottery Winner!

Ms.Villagomez, who is an employee at Mobil Susupe, stopped by the station on her day off and played some Scratchies. She won some small prizes, then later went home. As soon as she got home, she had this lucky feeling. So she went back to Mobil Susupe and got more tickets, and sure enough, she won herself $5,000 instantly. She was so happy because she had just recently given birth to a beautiful baby, and excited to celebrate his very first Christmas.

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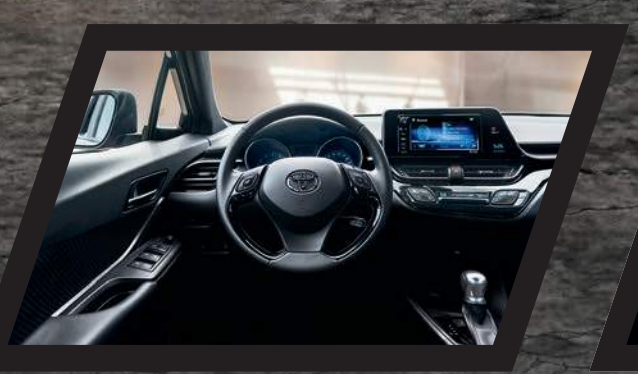

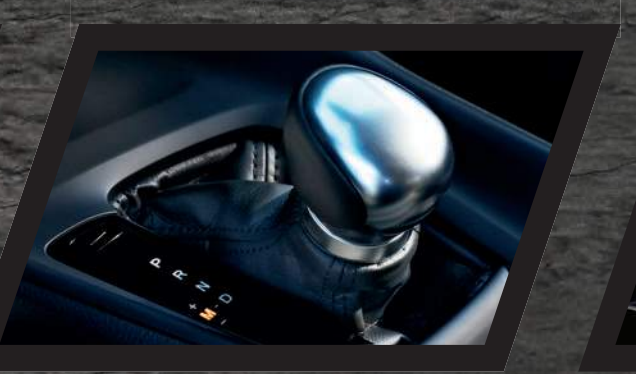

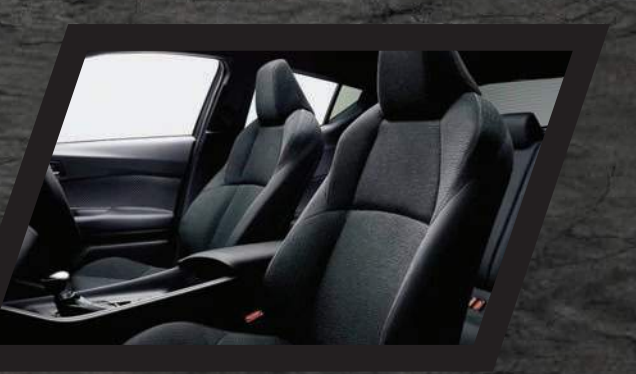

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CUC schedules power interruption today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled power interruption tomorrow, Dec. 23, 2017, from 7am to 12pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely replace three wooden power poles with concrete poles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio. This is part of an on-going FEMA Hazard Mitigation Project that involves the replacement of 787 wood poles to concrete poles.

■ Areas to be affected: Kiya 2 (2nd Partial)— Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan in San Antonio (Lililok Pl., Alu Dr., and Bua Ln.) and Afetna Road.

■ Water well to be affected: none

■ Wastewater lift station to be affected: A-3

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/). ***(PR)***

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May your holidays be Merry & Bright!

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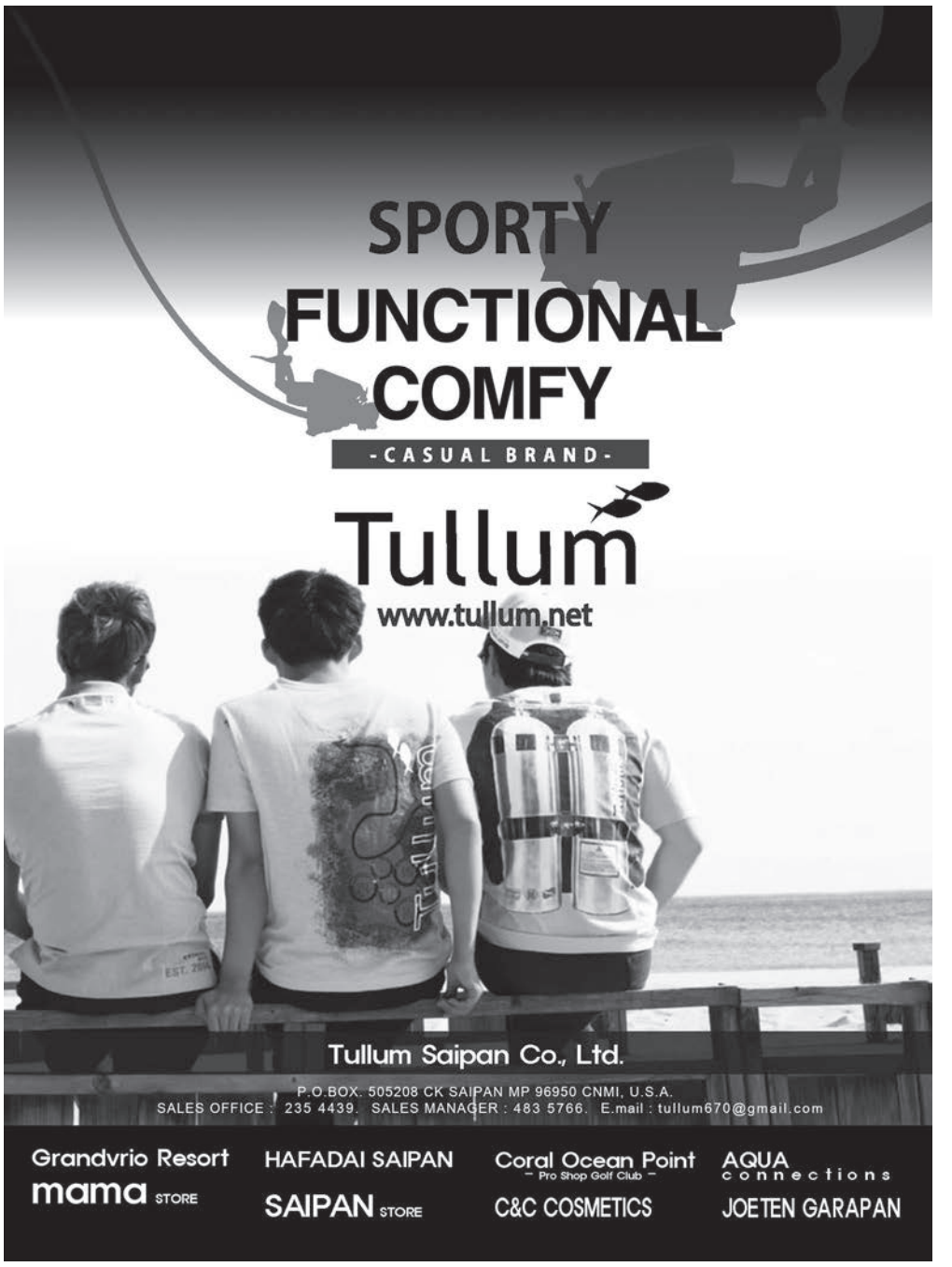

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Dear Santa,
Please don't believe any of that stuff about me being naughty... it's FAKE NEWS!!!
CLACK CLACK CLACK
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

EDITORIAL

An open letter to alien life forms on Earth

Dear aliens,

You may have been amused by a recent news story (you do read The Tribune and its competitors, right?) about the latest chapter in America's long, futile, semi-secret, widely mocked efforts to unmask you, to prove that your spaceships have been hovering, darting and befuddling fighter pilots with impossible aerobatics for decades.

The latest episode, revealed in The New York Times: The Pentagon spent millions over several years on a top-secret Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program to investigate UFOs.

The Pentagon says the program was shut down in 2012. Ha ha! Who believes that? You know humans won't quit pursuing you. We are too curious and persistent.

Seriously, we know you are here. How else to explain all those alleged sightings, including the video from a 2004 encounter between a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet and a UFO. "There's a whole fleet of them … they're all going against the wind," an awestruck pilot radios to a comrade. "The wind's 120 knots to the west. Look at that thing, dude."

Gives us chills just listening to that exchange and watching that video of a darting space-crafty blip on the radar screen.

One Navy pilot who encountered that craft recently told The Washington Post: "It was a real object; it exists and I saw it."

What was it? "Something not from the Earth," he said.

Off-world friends, please show yourselves. If you are as technologically advanced as we suspect, what's the harm? And, truthfully, aren't you getting tired of flitting around the planet, playing hide-and-seek? Bonus incentive: How about we throw in a free iPhone X for your crew members?

We guarantee the planet's inhabitants will celebrate your arrival. (Never mind "The Day The Earth Stood Still" and its ilk.) You'll be instant celebrities. Bigger than Trump. Even He of the Globe-sized Ego will have to admit that.

If you come down to Earth now, you will save humans decades of constructing conspiracy theories about Area 51, yearning to know if we are truly alone — and spending a lot more government money to ferret out the truth.

In October, a group called Messaging Extraterrestrial Intelligence, or METI International, beamed a message at a star a dozen light-years away with a possibly inhabitable planet. METI's ice-breaking message, sent via radio telescope, included the universal languages of music and math.

Yes, we know that famed theoretical physicist Stephen

See ALIEN on Next Page

Work your fingers to the bone...

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Did you spend 2017 enjoying a tropical beach instead of working in a drab city?

If so, we might as well slide into the twilight of the year with some Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau was no fan of, in his words, "spending of the best part of one's life earning money in order to enjoy a questionable liberty during the least valuable part of it."

Well, that is something to think about. And it's apparently not a new situation, given that Thoreau published those words in 1854 in his best-known work, *Walden*.

I knew two people this year who, after toiling their entire lives to hit pension age, were felled by health problems shortly thereafter, and, well, that was the end.

Their so-called Golden Years never got to shine.

As an old country song said, "Work your fingers to the bone, what do you get? Bony fingers."

We might see work as the problem, but the absence of it isn't always the solution.

For example, I've known my share of trust-fund babies who never had to work at all. You'd think that's the ultimate recipe for happiness. Oddly enough, though, many of them were chronically unhappy.

Apparently, being un-tethered from situations where you have to cooperate with people (which is pretty much what work is) can lead to a very lonely road. When it comes right down to it, after all, nobody really has to deal with you.

So if working isn't the answer, but not working isn't the answer either, what next?

We can always turn to the comforting embrace of fantasy. I can't help but noting that my fictional hero, the boat-dwelling Travis McGee, would take his retirement in little chunks whenever he had the money to lay back for awhile.

Then, fortuitously, whenever his stash of cash was getting thin, a beautiful, if somewhat troubled, damsel would appear on the scene needing McGee's professional services.

That's nice work if you can get it.

However, the supply of beautiful-but-troubled-damsels with lucrative capers that need solving is, as things turn out, pretty thin. Well, so much for my first career choice.

The closest I've come to meeting real life McGees has been in the tropics, which have long attracted those seeking a working life that has some gusto to it. This was my solution to the work conundrum, and that's how I found Saipan back in the day. Alas, since those early days, I do get steered into cold places, but, given the way the Asia-Pacific market is tied together, I think a broad footing is better than a narrow one.

The hometown crowd back in cubicle world assumes that anyone who goes to the tropics is a goof-off, but the fact is that there's often more work to be done in the fair latitudes. History has about 500 years of evidence on this note.

Not everybody wants to hear about it, though. As the motivational writer Jim Rohm noted, "The few who do are the envy of the many who only watch."

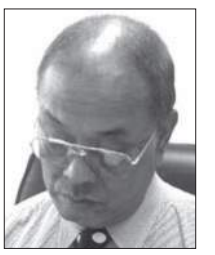
Meanwhile, the modern age has given us the conceit that every bit of risk can be squeezed out of our futures if we only plan enough. I know a number of people who consult actuarial charts so they can reckon how many more years they're going to live so they can optimize their financial planning. That's certainly sensible at one level. Having some sense of the numbers sure can't hurt. But too much fixation on this data can bleach out the fact that Mother Nature will act in accordance with her agenda, not ours.

And this leads to a paradox of modern life. We all like the notion of certainty, but the more secure our lives seem, the easier it is to squander them.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Politically correct insanity

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

We snooze for nine years ignoring the "transition" aspect of U.S. Public Law 110-229. Fact-checking the issue the governor is mandated to implement it. After the Fitial lawsuit it was ignored. It's now at the front door yelling, EVERbody home?

Goes to show our adolescent perception of policy issues originating at the national level. We employ the usual lasses-faire attitude convinced it's the same as a municipal council resolution we adopt and ignore with impunity.

Ooops! It's a show of dysfunction without refreshing commitment to do the right things by doing them right. The NMI delegation must have gotten off the train in the wrong town in D.C. Chest pounding mea culpa isn't helping! Business strategy versus policy are two substantially two different beasts!

Isn't it true that we have a 21 percent unemployment rate? Why display purposeful ignorance across the Pacific? Wouldn't this be a serious point of interest by the U.S. Congress who instantly see serious anomaly in our request?

Our concerns run head on collision with mounting national controversy—foreign felons entering the country killing law abiding citizens—through the chain migration and visa lottery system inherent under current U.S. immigration law. Trump is ever ready to kill both issues. He's even killing H-4 visa for spouses of legal foreigners. Is there room for accommodation of our issue or would it be trashed as inconsequential?

We may have succeeded conveying our sentiments to a U.S. Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Lisa Murkowski. What about the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives especially those from states whose constituents have been killed by foreign criminals in recent past?

Insanity: How do we navigate against their sentiment to eradicate foreign felons and jobs for spouses (H-4 visa) of legal foreign workers? The highly loose immigration policy is also known as politically correct insanity!

The best alternative now is "premium processing" recommended by attorney Janet King. It grants professional and technical experts from without the chance to retain their jobs while we work over the next decade to train and educate our young people.

Reiterating, the transition provision was intended for any sitting governor to ensure implementation. There's no two ways about it. The law must be followed.

Beyond: The Covenant Agreement permits our seeking economic assistance through the Department of State from Japan and nearby Asian countries.

But this requires some leadership to explore how do we rein-in help via an organized and fully defined plan. It may require initial visits by experts to see our level of growth in, e.g., farming, fishing, and techno-industry. It's a major undertaking that requires a lot of review and discussion in order to begin formulation of programs and their subsequent implementation. Unless we buckle down to some defined and organized plans nothing moves anywhere to our detriment.

I recall local farmers who used to watch an old lady pass by a coffee in the morning with a 50-lb sack loaded with something. Returning, the sack is empty, folded, and placed neatly in the back. They finally sent someone to check her out one fine morning.

She's been selling young and crispy cucumber that meets the taste of Japanese tourists. Our focus wasn't on customer taste but how large our beastly cucumber could get that weighs a ton. Later it is fed to our pigs. Wasted! We eventually learned the simple basics of marketing that it involves the taste of your customers not your personal greed found in your heavy and mush cucumber!

You have to know the taste of the market in order to succeed. You feed it what it wants and you succeed in marketing your produce. Japanese love yellow fin tuna. We love bonito tuna and catch a lot of them that are sold to locals. Marketing it in hotels isn't going anywhere. Our bonito smells woefully fishy unlike yellow fin tuna. I'm sure you know why we love bonito—it's fishy!

Definition: Sad that 40 years into self-government we're still as disorganized in our ways than we did at the outset. Ever wondered why? Che`chu` dihada! We lack definition in most everything we take up. It's as temperamental as the growth we see today under a single-engine tourism economy.

If escalation of tension with North Korea heightens that shuts down travel all over the region how would we survive? Eh, take your fishing pole so we sit it out along the leeward side of the island burning canned tuna and half-cooked rice plus plenty of beer to drown our fear. Nah! There has to be a better way out of this piling mess of hardship in the villages.

Pension: Having taken full retirement since a decade ago I often ponder upon the fiscal posture of the NMI specifically as it relates to funding for this program.

The old pension program owes over $700 million in debt, which is paid gradually through a program. The Settlement Fund financial backing is like an old telephone system: sometimes ring, sometimes no ring. It's fiscally unstable.

If the casino business stumbles, funding for the Settlement Fund careens and falls flat on its face. It's riddled with uncertainty. Yep! It happens when politicians played a hand into forging a very generous pension program we ill could afford. The net effect of such generosity is fiscal instability. EVERbody home?

Reversal: The lack of definition and persistent loose disposition leaves nothing behind for some respite of hope. I figure my best shot is to join the chorus intone, *I'd be home for Christmas* though my gut is riddled with tension. Does it matter?

■■■

Merry Christmas yan Felis Noche Buena to one and all!

LITERARY NOOK

Christmas poems

By JOEY "PEPE BATBON" CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Christmas Day, Christmas time, Christmas holidays, the 12 Days of Christmas, there are probably more poems, songs, books and movies written about those events than any other holiday in the world. One famous song/poem that also has many parodies and humorous versions is The 12 Days of Christmas. I thought that idea has been done so many times that I would write, with respect for our separation of church and state, of 12 days celebrating democracy.

12 DAYS OF CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY

On the 1st day of democracy celebration the nation joins together in jubilation for all the freedom that US citizenship brings to us

on the 2nd day celebrate how great our separation of church and state

on the 3rd day celebrate our three branches of government: judicial, executive, and legislative

on the 4th day we have President FDR's Four Freedoms: the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to worship God in his own way, freedom from want, and freedom from fear

on the 5th day we celebrate the fifth amendment – indictment by a Grand Jury, double jeopardy, and due process.

on the 6th day we celebrate D-Day, June 6th 1944 when over 160,000 allied soldiers landed in France to fight for democracy

on the 7th day celebrate the end of the seven day work week and the beginning of the five day work week in the US between 1908 and 1919

on the 8th day celebrate the eight hour day and "a living wage"

on the 9th day we celebrate nine Supreme Court Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court

on the 10th day we celebrate the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, written by James Madison, also known as the Bill of Rights

on the 11th day we celebrate Veteran's Day a holiday to honor all who have served in the U.S. Military Services.

on the 12th we celebrate the birth of the 16th President of the US, Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809.

CHAMORRO CHRISTMAS ACROSTIC

M - mampos mafute' misan tatalo' puengi
E - enkantao esperansa
R - rai yan raina
R - roskas yan bukayu
Y - yetno yan yetna

C - chikulati yan chiku
H - hagon suni yan hangon
R - rodo manok yan Tres Reyes
I - ilotes yan inaflitu na mannok
S - satdinas yan satmon
T - titiyas yan tinaktak
M - mampos meyas
A - afa'maolek, adobu, adibina
S - sopas suni

Felis Pasgua yan Anu' Nuebu

ALIEN

From Page 14

Hawking has warned against sending such messages, lest space invaders find us to be easily vanquishable. Those space marauders may be so powerful that they "and may not see us as any more valuable than we see bacteria," Hawking cautions.

Hawking also predicts that humans have about 1,000 years to master space travel and populate a new planet if the species is to survive. He believes that climate change, asteroid strikes, epidemics and population growth make a long-term future on Earth problematic at best.

Is that your strategy, aliens? Wait us out for the next 10 centuries, then claim this splendid blue orb?

We hope not. That would be a terrible anticlimax for those of us eager for first contact sooner than, say, 3018.

Come on, extraterrestrials, let's cut out the chase. We're here. You're here. Let's meet.

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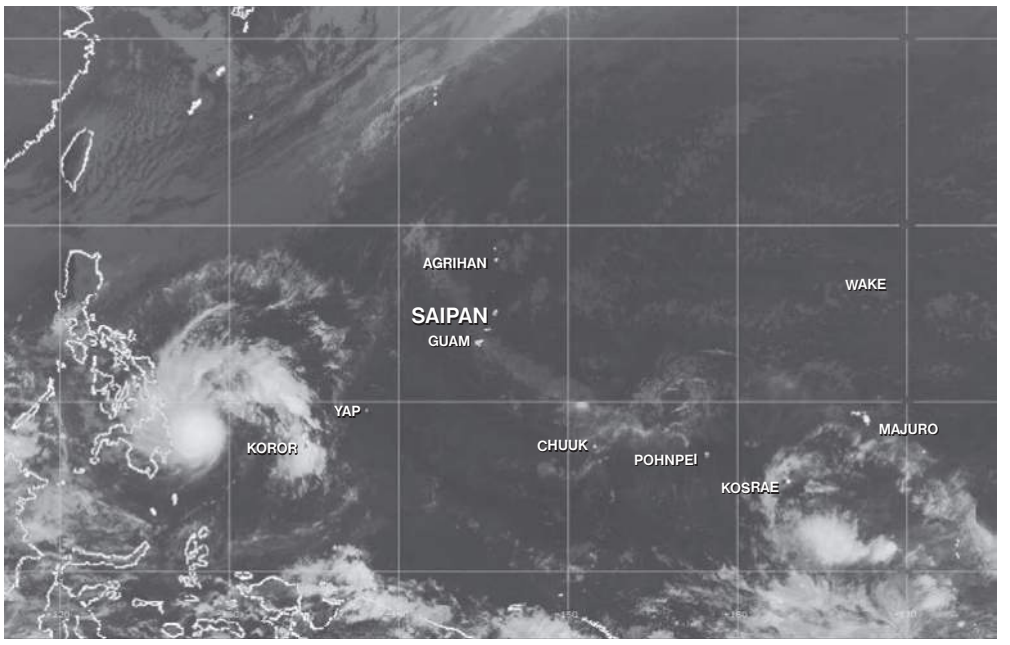
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:00 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Marianas are firmly anchored in a rather dry trade-wind regime. Sky cover will fluctuate a few times over the forecast period from partly sunny to partly cloudy then back again. The big wrinkle is the GFS brings a circulation not too far southwest of Guam around Monday. The GFS is the only model bringing it that far north and winding it up that much. Also, the GFS has been gradually trending it farther south itself. So, at this point, am leaving that out of the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 68°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	65° / 45°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	84° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 71°
New York	Cloudy	47° / 45°
Osaka	Sunny	54° / 41°
Paris	Cloudy	50° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	57° / 46°
Salem	Showers	67° / 60°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	53° / 42°
Seoul	Cloudy	45° / 34°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 37°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 48°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:59 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.18
11:03 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
4:52 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18
9:16 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:24 am	9:08 pm	-
Saturday	10:07 am	9:58 pm	-
Sunday	10:49 am	10:47 pm	-
Monday	11:30 am	11:37 pm	-
Tuesday	12:10 pm	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

MING YANG SUPERMARKET

LOCAL FRESH VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Customer Appreciation Sale

Dec 22 - 26, 2017

Store Opens
6:30am - 11:30pm • Monday - Sunday

FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN FROZEN

CHICKEN Leg Quarter
22lbs $13.99 33lbs $18.99

Baby **RIBS** 10lbs
$19.99

Pork Spare **RIBS** 20lbs
$19.99

Whole **CHICKEN** 30lbs
$41.99

Chicken **WINGLETS** 5lbs
$12.99

Chicken **NUGGETS** 5lbs
$9.99

Vega **SHRIMP** 1lb
$6.99

Bar S **BACON** 16oz
$4.69

Frozen Pangasius **FILLET** PK
$3.79

MEAT FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

Pork Adobo	$8.99
Pork Chop	$9.99
Pork Butt	$8.99
Pork Bellies	$9.99
Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Pork Feet	$6.99
Pork Hock	$8.99
Beef Short Ribs	$19.99

Ground **PORK** 10lbs
$22.99

Ground **BEEF** 10lbs
$23.99

TURKEY lb
$1.99

HAM
$2.39

Mackarel **SABA** 22lb / Case
$24.99

Mackarel **PIKE** 22lb / Case
$22.99

McColls **ICE CREAM** 1 Gal
$8.99

LIQUOR/DRINKS LIQUOR/DRINKS LIQUOR/DRINKS LIQUOR/DRINKS LIQUOR/DRINKS LIQUOR/DRINKS LIQUOR/DRINKS

SOFTDRINK
Coca Cola & Sprite 35pk 12oz $23.99
Pepsi & Mountain Dew 36pk 12 oz $23.99

Heineken **BEER** Can w/ Free Recycling Bag
12oz $25.99

Budweiser & Budlight **BEER** w/ Free Bud Glass (Limited)
24 Cans Case $29.99

Asahi Pacific Blue **BEER** 24 Can 330mL
$19.99

Corona Bottle **BEER** 24 Bottles 12fl oz
$39.99

Carlo Rossi **WINE** 3 Liter
$19.99

Vella Burgundy **WINE** 5 Liter
$24.99

Entwine **WINE** 750 ml
$10.99

Wente **WINE** 750 ml
$10.99

GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY GROCERY

Spring Field **MAYO** 15oz
$2.99 2for$5

Del Monte **KETCHUP** 24oz
$1.99 2for$3

Act II **POP CORN** Assorted Flavor 8.25oz
$1.99 2for$3

Karamucho Hot **CHIPS** 55g
$2.19 2for$4

Takis Fuego **CHIPS** 9.88oz
$2.99 2for$5

Karamucho **STICK** 105g
$2.99 2for$5

Joy Waffle **CONE** Classic 12ct
$3.99 2for$7

Post Cocoa Pebbles / Post Fruity Pebbles **CEREAL** 11oz
$3.99 2for$7

Mang Tomas **ALL PURPOSE** 550g
$1.39 3for$4

Libby's **PUMPKIN** 29oz
$3.99 2for$7

Beef Jack Links **JERKY** 3.25z
$5.99 2for$11

Ginbis **ASPARAGUS** 6*27g
$3.99 2for$7

Chef Boyardee **SPAG & MEATBALLS** 15oz
$1.39 3for$4

Chef Boyardee **LASAGNA** 15oz
$1.39 3for$4

Chef Boyardee **BEEFARONI** 15oz
$1.39 3for$4

Libby's Vienna **SAUSAGE** 4.6oz
$0.59 /pc $9.99 /per 18 pcs

Gold Medal **FLOUR** 5lbs
$3.99 2for$7

Wonderfarm **COCONUT MILK** 400ml
$1.39 3for$4

Ox & Palm **CORNED BEEF** 11.5oz
$3.59

Black Label **LUNCHEON MEAT** 12oz
$1.89

Red Label **LUNCHEON MEAT** 12oz
$1.29

Filma **OIL** 5 Liters
$6.99

Folgers **COFFEE** 48oz
$15.99

Morton **SALT** 26oz
$0.99

Enfamil Twin Pack **MILK** 54oz
$59.99

Kadoya **SESAME OIL** 56oz
$14.99

Nature Valley Oats **HONEY BAR** 1.49oz
$17.99

AJINOMOTO 454g
$1.99

KIMCHEE BASE 450g
$4.99

SF Olive Ripe **PITTED MED** 6oz
$1.99

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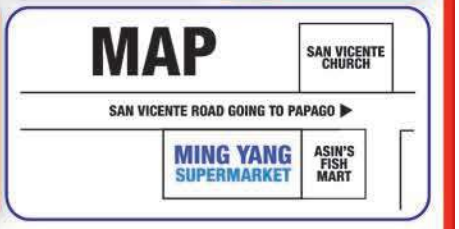

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Kilili, Andrea and family
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dereliction of duties

Has anyone noticed how our government and business leaders address our manpower and workforce needs? Well, I do, and here is how I describe it. They waited and procrastinated in either, providing verifiable current statistical employment data or hurriedly put together poorly defendable workforce options, within and outside the mandates of U.S. Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Their focus was and has been to beg U.S. Congress for relief, even though Congress had explicitly stated its intent with respect to immigrants entering the borders of the United States, especially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, where CNMI-Only Immigrant and Non-immigrant employment-based classifications are permissible and enforceable.

This frantic 11th hour marathon by selected business elites and leaders of the Commonwealth seeking hardly attainable remedy, is a reminder of previous ignoble actions and motives, attempting to thwart federalization of immigration in the CNMI some 10 years ago. Besides, there are H visa worker categories available for businesses to apply for their labor needs. This isn't all doom and gloom Titanic situation that some in the Chamber of Commerce are peddling as a scare tactic. We have seen this ploy played before. They continue to think and treat us as though a community of moronic idiots.

Rather than pooling our technical and financial resources and concentrate on developing local workforce capacity using measurable tracking methodology, which U.S. Congress plainly expressed in 110-229. We keep reverting to old unimaginative option which perpetuates unlivable wages and dis-incentivizes private employment. We already lost credibility with U.S. Congress and that was the reason why it enacted the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 in the first place...to compel orderly policy implementation and compliance.

Self-redemption requires demonstrable sincere efforts in adhering to statutory mandates, and not through filibustering required hard and difficult work. What U.S. Congress wants and expects of our leaders, is to be resolute in belaboring for building local workforce capacity by and beyond the authorized extension deadline. If the intent of Congress was otherwise, it wouldn't have imposed a cutoff date for the exit of foreign workers.

Let me make it plain and simple and excuse the redundancy. What U.S. Congress wants, and our government and business leaders keep evading it, is for the production of local U.S. workforce to eventually replace the need for foreign workers in the CNMI. Congress even provided financial assistance to help in underwriting the costs of workforce developments. This was the intent in authorizing the CNMI-Only CW immigrant classification in 110-229. It was never meant to be the long-term labor workforce solution, and I can't, for the life of me, understand what is it in our destructive obsession defying the will of Congress that we just can't unshackle away from.

Maybe the description of our leaders below is part of the answer. You see, when Congressional oversight hearings was taking place here in the Commonwealth back in 2007, oral testimonies presented by our citizens, described our leaders as complacence, aloof, indecisive, procrastinators, and calculating. So, Congress is aware of our leadership and governing style. As a matter of fact, it was rumored that staffers from the office of Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who chairs the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, have established comprehensive profiles of leadership history of the Commonwealth.

Aren't our leaders placing themselves in a miserably inadequate position by appealing to members of Congress over the same issues (labor abuse and mismanagement) that forces them to exercise their plenary powers and take over our control of immigration? I mean, doesn't it sound woefully ironic that U.S. Congress allows us to have control of immigration but screwed up its management after so many warnings; then they took it back in a form of PL 110-229 with a five-year grace period which ends in 2015, and through pleadings from our government and business leaders got extended to 2019 with more assurances of concentrated efforts toward building local workforce capacity, and again begging for relief over our ownfailures and incompetence?

So, who is to blame for the actions of federal officials in following the mandates of the statute? Because there are human casualties in our leaders' dereliction of their sworn duty, and these casualties are victims of leadership's false pretenses.

Based on our track records, students of history wouldn't argue on the characterization of our leadership above, because it was poor leadership that messed up our self-government pursuit. If anyone wishes to disprove this statement, just review what happen between 1978 up till 1993 and again from 2007 to 2014. The fateful drama years wasn't what our Covenant negotiators envision of our self-government to befall upon our Commonwealth. It is also poor leadership that has gotten us into this quagmire as well.

Had we done our due diligence in concentrating on enacting policies and making decisions for the noble goods of our entire citizens, and not use political gamesmanship to undermine the future of this Commonwealth, we would have been 21th century bound.

So, now the question, is there a need for foreign skilled workers in the CNMI? The answer is yes H categories. Are local residents against the presence of foreign workers in the CNMI? The answer is no. The indifference against foreign immigrants, not only workers, are their brazen (in-your-face) attitude of entitlement and little regards (KON RE SPETO) to the cultural beliefs and practices of our Chamorro and Carolinian community. Their obtrusive display of perso nal habits and decorum, in government and public places, is considered culturally offensive and nauseating. It rubs our local people the wrong way.

Here is my personal plea to our esteem leaders. Please stop politicizing the CW issues. These are not only positions to be filled but human bodies with emotions and feelings. There is enough anxiety created on the subject and patronizing their uncertain immigration status is just emotionally brutal and agonizing, and instead we should be merciful but conscious of the legal mandates.

Daniel O. Quitugua
Kanat Tabla

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres

Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

"Be Thankful, Be Kind, Be Merry"

This month, we take the time to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, and reflect on this past year. In the Marianas, Christmas is truly a wonderful and magical experience, where the true spirit of the islands manifests itself in many wonderful ways.

This holiday season, we ask all of you to bring that spirit out tenfold, by being kind to one and all, appreciating the many blessings and kind gestures given, and most importantly, by resolving to make the coming year better than the last.

We also ask everyone to celebrate responsibly. Should the need arise, make sure to designate a sober driver to bring you and your loved ones home safely. But most of all, we ask all of you to be thankful, be kind, and be merry.

From our families, we wish all of you a safe and…

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Felis Påsguan Noche Buena yan Felis Åñu Ñuebu!
Ammeseighil Ubwutiwel Layúl Lugh Ráágh Fféé!

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG

Merry Christmas

from your family and friends at IT&E.

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill!

IT&E

GMS showcases talent, teamwork at Christmas in the Marianas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School principal Milagros Songcuan, front row sixth left, is joined by GMS students, teachers, and parents at the stage after the Falcons received their prizes in the Christmas tree decoration and caroling competitions of the Christmas at the Marianas at the Paseo de Marianas last Dec. 16.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students wear costumes made out of recyclable materials during a fashion show at the Christmas at the Marianas last Dec. 16 at the Paseo de Marianas.

Green Meadow School's talent and teamwork were in full display as the Falcons participated in the various activities at the Christmas in the Marianas.

GMS students and teachers showcased their creativity in designing a Christmas tree. They created ornaments out of recycled materials, which were collected through a recycling drive launched in the school.

"We're very thankful to the parents of our students for their support in the recycling drive. Parents collected materials from their homes and offices and brought them to GMS so that our students could work on the Christmas ornaments," GMS principal Milagros Songcuan said.

GMS went on to win third place at the Christmas tree decoration contest.

"This win is the fruit of labor of our innovative students and hardworking staff and teachers. Credit also goes to the parents for sharing their ideas on how to make the tree beautiful," Songcuan added. "Overall, our Christmas tree is a product of the GMS family's combined efforts, cooperation, and creativity.

The Falcons also joined the Christmas caroling contest both in the elementary and middle school divisions and fielded three entries at the Christmas in the Marianas' logo-making competition. GMS placed second in the middle school Christmas caroling competition and fourth in the elementary, while the entry of Chris Vecina topped the logo-making contest. The Falcons also had 10 students joining a Christmas fashion show featuring recycled materials.

"Once again, our students showed their talents in singing and playing musical instruments during the Christmas caroling contest. The management and staff of GMS commend them for the time and work they put into their practice sessions just to make sure they will perform well at the competition," the GMS principal said.

"We would also like to acknowledge the students' parents for supporting and encouraging their children. No matter how busy these parents are, they always find time to drop their children off to practices and watch the students' performances. Their support gave our students more confidence as they perform and delighted a huge crowd at the Paseo de Marianas," Songcuan added. ***(PR)***

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Christmas be yours;
And may the coming year
be filled with happiness.
From the management and staff of
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IPI-Office on Aging hold 'Caregiver's Christmas'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility team, led by executive director Geri Dela Cruz alongside Office on Aging's Linda Torres, gather around Consolacion "Nang Chong" Muna at her Chalan Kanoa home.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC and the Office on Aging have come up with a special program that honors and recognizes the elderly members of the community, for their hard work and dedication to caring for their loved ones, during this Christmas season.

Called the "Caregiver's Christmas," this heartwarming program spread the holiday spirit to the *man'amko* community, with members of Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility together with the Office on Aging singing Christmas carols, presenting gift bags, and presenting the image of the Holy Child.

The "Caregiver's Christmas" was held last Dec. 20 and 21. There were 111 elderly members of the community and among them were Koblerville resident Anna Igtol, 103, the oldest, and Chalan Kanoa resident Consolacion Muna, 93.

IPI-CSR staff and Office on Aging through Linda Torres spearheaded the event. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

IPI-CSR's Melina Salas and manager Alex Palacis bringing in the Nino into Anna Igitol's residence.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

IPI-CSR and Office on Aging presenting 'Nan Chong' her Nino, which caught her by surprise.

Wishing you and your family the Gift of Faith,
the Blessing of Hope and the Peace
of His Love at Christmas and always.
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Interior provides $3M compact grant to Palau

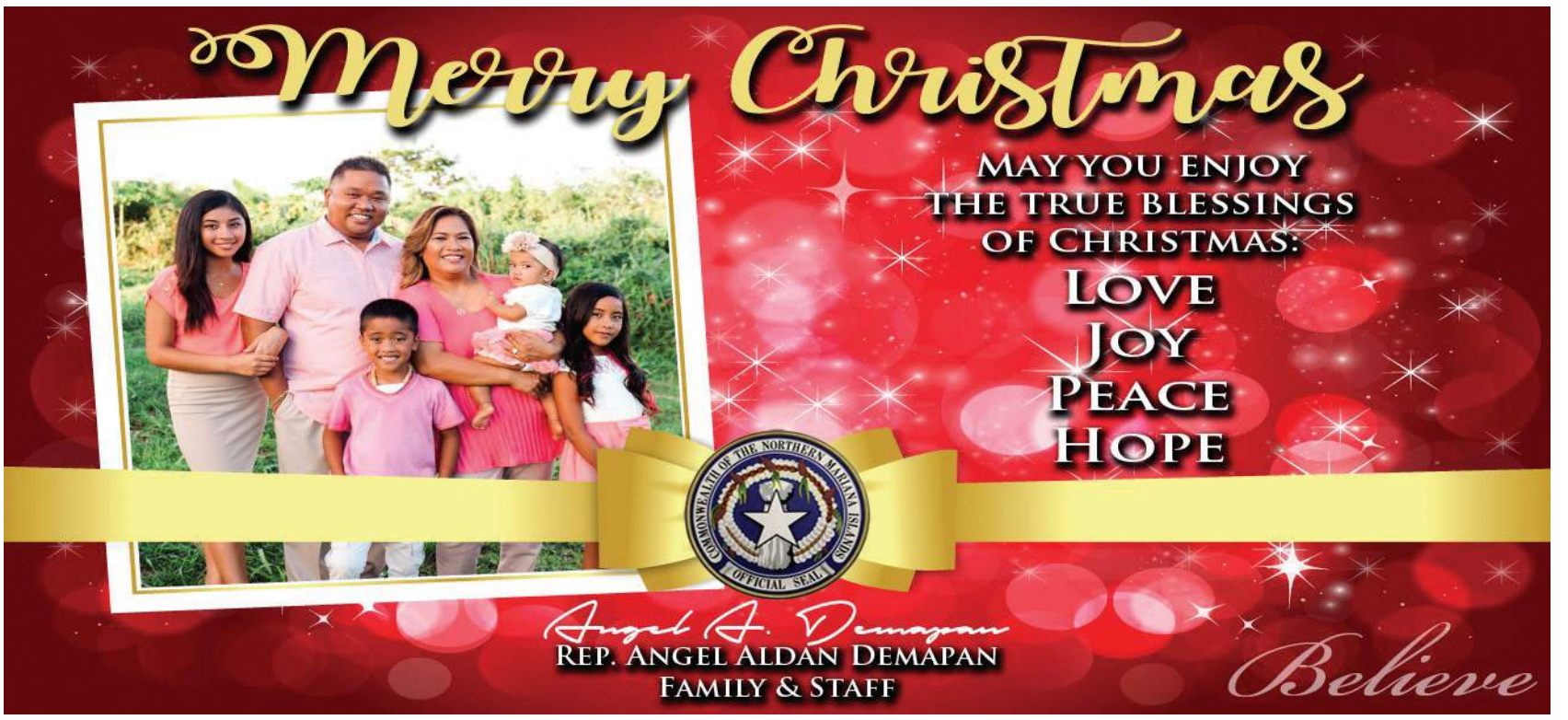
WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has advanced a partial Compact grant payment of $2.5 million to the Republic of Palau and an additional $500,000 grant to conduct the FY 2017 Single Audit.

» Represents partial payment of annual compact funding

"As long as we continue to operate under a continuing resolution, we can only make a partial payment to Palau, however we are hopeful that Congress will soon finalize a budget for FY2018 and also act to appropriate full funding for the Palau Compact Agreement we signed with Palau in 2010," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "The time has come for Congress to finalize the Compact agreement that embodies our unique and special relationship with Palau."

While financial grant assistance provisions of the U.S.-Palau Compact expired on September 30, 2009, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88 Sec. 122) and subsequent discretionary appropriations have continued to provide for an annual $13,147,000 for economic assistance to Palau. These funds are provided to assist the Government of Palau in its efforts to advance the well-being of its people and in recognition of the special relationship that exists between the United States and Palau.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior, on behalf of the Secretary, is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided under the Compacts of Free Association to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The Office of Insular Affairs promotes policies and distributes grants under the direction of the Assistant Secretary who strives to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***



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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Community Guidance Center

BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

"One Day at a Time"

A MESSAGE OF HOPE & WELLNESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

At any time of the year, and especially during the holidays, people can get struck with depression. While feeling sad is normal, persistent feelings of sadness and a loss of interest in doing things once enjoyed may be a sign of a more serious problem. Depression is a common medical illness that can negatively affect a person's thoughts, feelings and behavior. This mood disorder which ranges from mild to serious can be treated, unfortunately some people choose destructive ways to cope; some use alcohol or drugs, others become socially isolated, and sadly some have even taken their life. It is critical that people get the help they need to lift out of a depressive state. If you or someone you know is feeling depressed and hopeless, reach out to a professional.

There are ways to support someone you care about who is dealing with depression. Here's a list of some things you can do to start the process of hope and recovery:

1. Learn about the Condition
Reading up on the illness will help you feel more in control of the situation and give you more patience to tolerate the confusing or frustrating symptoms.

2. Help Them Identify and Cope With Sources of Stress
Stress contributes to depression and also interrupts healthy coping strategies. Help them identify sources of stress and ways to reduce it. Small changes, like deep breathing techniques or taking short walks, can go far in reversing the effects of stress.

3. Remind them of their Strengths
Remind them of their strengths, using examples of a time in their lives they showed courage, compassion, integrity, and overcame challenges.

4. Laughter Heals
Laughter soothes and triggers the release of "feel good" brain chemicals to increase one's ability to reduce stress.

5. Let them know that this too will pass
It is a simple statement of truth that holds the most powerful healing element of all: hope.

6. Listen, Listen, Listen. And Listen.
A basic and powerful way to connect with others is to listen from the heart. Allow them to talk and express how they feel without interruptions or judgment. It's better to say nothing and just listen warmly than to say the wrong things. For example, Do say, "I am here for you." Don't say, "Others have it worse than you." Do say, "You matter to me." Don't say, "Life isn't fair."

7. If they are suicidal, do not leave them alone
Do not leave him or her alone if they are depressed and feeling suicidal or having thoughts of harming themselves. Having someone around is important. Bring your loved one to a professional for an evaluation if you fear they would hurt themselves or others.

8. Eat and Sleep Well. Get physical.
Basic nutrients and a good healthy diet is important when feeling depressed as there is a tendency to skip meals or lose appetite. Incorporate enough physical activity, however big or small. Physical activity combats depression.

9. Small acts of kindness can go a long way
A gesture to let them know you care can go a long way, like share a favorite dish or fresh fruits, call to say hello, or offer to take him or her out to a movie or dinner. Kind words to let them know you love them and that they matter can go a long way.

RECOVERY CLINIC SERVICES

The Community Guidance Center's Recovery Clinic, a substance use disorder treatment program, offers services to support individuals and families affected with substance use disorders with essential information and coping skills to pursue health, wellness, and recovery. On October 31, 2017 the Recovery Clinic launched Intensive Outpatient (IOP) Treatment Services for individuals affected by moderate to severe substance abuse disorder. Through the Matrix Model, participants and their families are provided structured, evidenced-based treatment for 16 weeks and 36 weeks of continuing care. Alongside the Matrix Model, CGC offers peer support and 12 Step facilitation which builds and empowers participants and their families in the ongoing recovery process. Other coordinated groups to compliment and support treatment include exercise and physical activities, arts and culture, and a spiritual component. If you are or know of someone who is struggling with substance use issues, please contact our office for more information.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 13	Completion of the NAADAC Foundations of Addiction Practice Training (80 Hrs)
December 15	Blue Fridays: Wear Your Blue Island Wear to support the Blue Ribbon Campaign
	KKMP Recovery Show 7:30am-8:30am
December 16	NSA Safe & Sober Christmas Youth Softball Tournament (Prevention Unit)
	Prevention Unit at Christmas in the Marianas
December 19	Health Walk (TLC)
	5:00PM Registration - Starting at 5:30PM
	Oleai Pavillion
December 22	Blue Fridays: Wear Your Blue Island Wear to support the Blue Ribbon Campaign
	KKMP Recovery Show 7:30AM-8:30AM
December 23	Prevention Unit at Christmas in the Marianas
December 27	Recovery Clinic in partnership with DYS: Village Community Forum at Kagman Community Center. 6:00pm - 7:00pm
December 29	Blue Fridays: Wear Your Blue Island Wear to support the Blue Ribbon Campaign
	KKMP Recovery Show 7:30am - 8:30am
December 30	Prevention Unit at Christmas in the Marianas

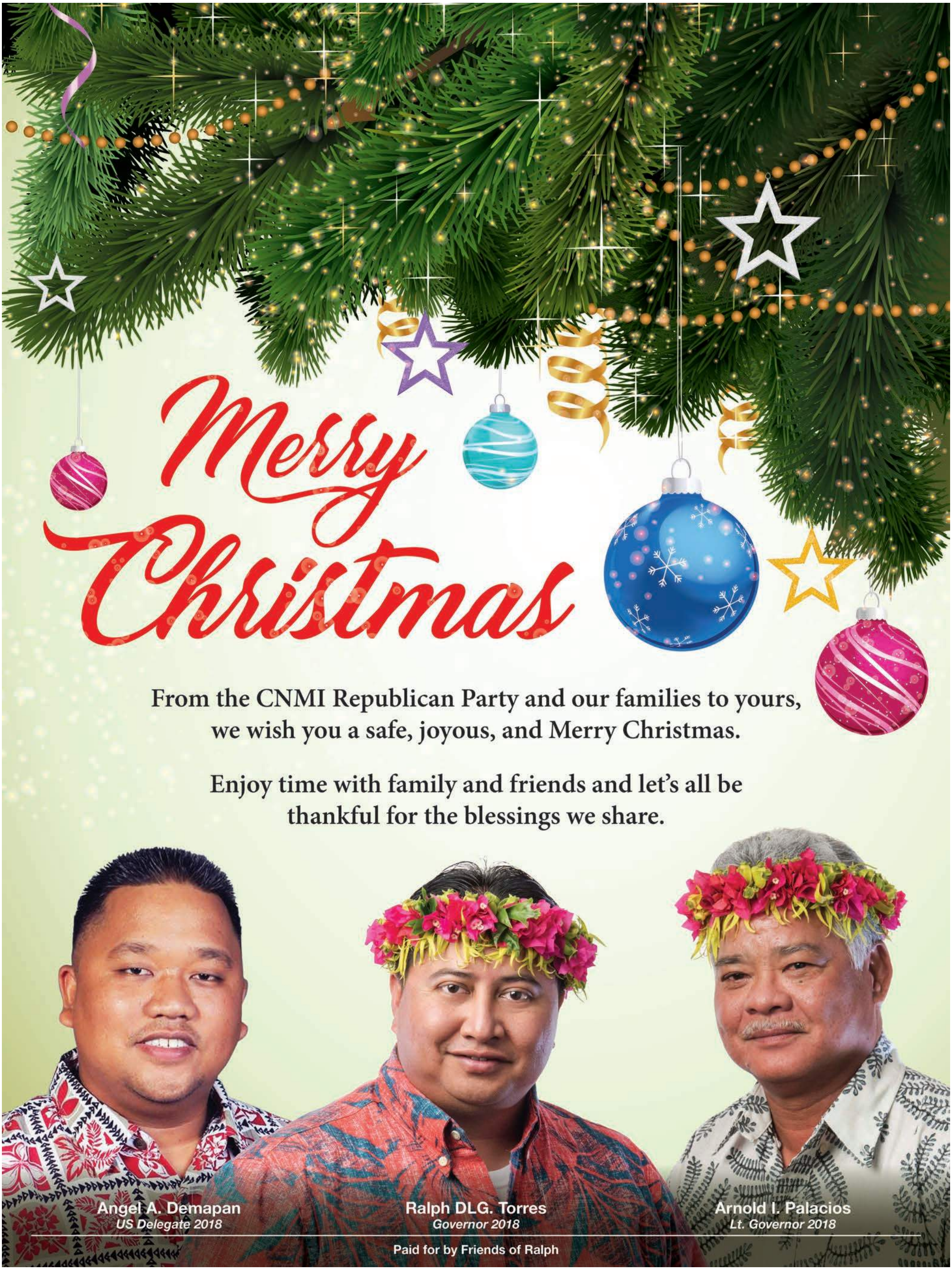
The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center, express warmest thoughts and best wishes for the holidays. May peace, love and prosperity be with our families throughout the CNMI.

For more information, please call Community Guidance Center at 323-6560/61

Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit	Recovery Clinic	Transitional Living Center (TLC)	Systems of Care (SOC)	Wellness Clinic
(670) 323-6560/61	(670) 323-6560/61	(670) 323-4060/63	(670) 664-4604/05 to 09	(670) 236-8752

CGC-Prevention Services Unit cgc_prevention cgc_prevention

This message is brought to you by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in partnership with the CHCC:CGC - Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit.


Merry Christmas
From the CNMI Republican Party and our families to yours,
we wish you a safe, joyous, and Merry Christmas.
Enjoy time with family and friends and let's all be
thankful for the blessings we share.
Angel A. Demapan
US Delegate 2018
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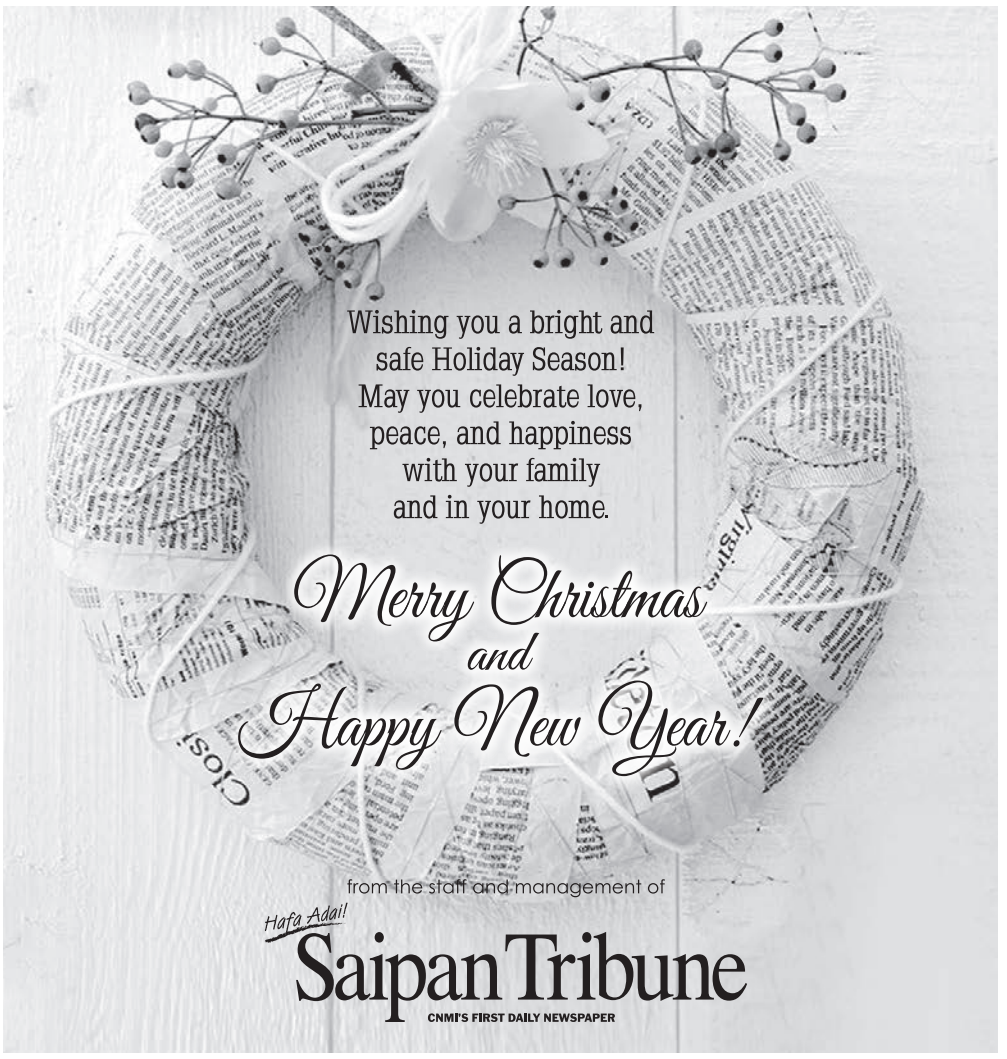

Dizon joins San Nicolas as campaign counsel

Guam Sen. Michael F.Q. San Nicolas is pleased to announce the addition of Karlo Dizon as campaign counsel for San Nicolas' 2018 bid for Guam's Congressional Delegate to Washington, D.C.

Karlo Dizon graduated with distinction with a degree in political science from Yale University. He got his masters degree with distinction in comparative politics from the London School of Economics and his law degree from Stanford University Law School. He is currently an attorney with the law firm Wilmer Hale LLC in Washington, D.C., one of the leading law firms in the country.

Dizon

A son of Guam and a product of Guam public schools, he is a graduate of Simon Sanchez High School, Benavente Middle School, and Juan M. Guerrero Elementary School. He was a candidate for Congress on Guam in 2012.

"Karlo's experience, ties to Guam, and current involvement in the D.C. legal circuit will be invaluable to our efforts to earn the trust of the people as Guam's next Washington Delegate," said San Nicolas.

"We look forward to continuing to leverage generational talent and relationships in benefit of and service to the people of Guam," he added.

"Senator San Nicolas's steadfast advocacy for economic and financial discipline has been inspirational and I know he will bring a strong voice for Guam to Washington, D.C.," said Karlo Dizon.

San Nicolas, who is going into his sixth year of office as a Senator in Guam Legislature, is seeking Guam's Washington Delegate seat in the United States Congress. ***(PR)***

Guam to host 3rd Åmot Kumfirensia

Hinemlo'ta yan I Direchotta is the theme that would drive the 3rd Åmot Kumfirensia that Guam will host from Jan. 3 to 6, 2018 at the University of Guam.

It's the first major event sponsored by the Håya Cultural Heritage and Preservation Foundation, the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) Dean's Office and the Chamorro Studies Program, Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, CNMI's Inetnun Amut yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw, and Amot Farm.

Topics to be covered through various presentation and demonstrations will include: The state of our health and well-being of our indigenous people; social, emotional, mental and NCDs and traditional healing; historical, current and future role of traditional healing practices of our indigenous peoples; emerging issues related to traditional healers; integrating traditional healing in hospitals, clinics, and the public health systems; traditional healing practice in the international arena; land use policies and medical plants habitats; research and ethno-botany on medicinal plants in the Marianas; and cultural and health significance of medicinal plants.

The topics will certainly take the issues from the deeply rooted private practices to the discussion table and promises healthy and vibrant discussions.

For more information contact the following:

■ Guam: Zita Pangelinan, President Håya Foundation at 727-7717 or email zpangelinan@gmail.com or Rufina Mendiola, DOE Chamorro Studies at 688-4327 or email rfmendiola@gdoe.net.

■ Rota: Aubry Hocog 670-783-2829 or email aubryhocog@gmail.com

■ Saipan: Frances Sablan (670) 287-9274 or email: francessablan@gmail.com

■ Tinian: Florine Hofschneider, 670-433-0888 or email florinemhofsch@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Guam welcomes USS *Asheville*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naval Base Guam held a homecoming celebration for the sailors of the USS *Asheville* following the submarine's homeport shift from Pearl Harbor last Dec. 14.

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Guam submarine force welcomed the crew and families of Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Asheville* (SSN 758) during a homecoming celebration at Naval Base Guam following the submarine's homeport shift from Pearl Harbor, Dec. 14.

Asheville replaced USS *Chicago* (SSN 721) as Guam's fourth forward-deployed Los Angeles-class attack submarine. Chicago shifted homeport to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in September 2017.

"It's great to be reunited with family and friends on Guam who made the move in anticipation of our arrival," said Capt. Paul Pampuro, *Asheville*'s commanding officer. "The crew has been through a demanding maintenance and training period to prepare for our homeport shift, and we are excited to begin our next chapter at the tip of the spear."

Pampuro thanked everyone for the warm welcome and the support during the transition.

"Changing a submarine's homeport requires a lot of coordination and communication across different organizations," said Pampuro. "Thankfully, we have dedicated teams in Guam and Hawaii who worked to ensure we had a smooth transition."

Asheville completed a scheduled engineered overhaul in November at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. While in overhaul, the ship's systems were upgraded to ensure *Asheville* will be able to meet future tasking as one of four forward-deployed submarines on Guam.

"The submarine crews assigned to Submarine Squadron 15 are some of the toughest and combat ready teams in the Submarine Force," said Capt. David Schappert, Commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15. "The four attack submarines homeported in Apra Harbor are equipped with our most modern tactical systems. As a group, this team plays an important role in promoting peace, security and prosperity in the dynamic Indo-Asia-Pacific region. It is my pleasure to welcome the crew of USS *Asheville* to this team, and I look forward to their contributions in executing the Navy's mission in the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility. By training hard with other 7th Fleet units and with our allies, I am confident *Asheville* will help strengthen regional partnerships, deter potential adversaries, and defeat aggression should that deterrence fail."

Forward-deployed submarines are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. Guam's strategic location enhances military force flexibility and allows freedom of action, regional engagement, crisis response and deterrence while helping to fulfill commitments to U.S. allies and partners to protect the nation's security.

"Guam is arguably the U.S. Navy's most vital submarine homeport," said Pampuro, "The operations out here are incredible, and the people of Guam are friendly and welcoming. Guam is a hidden gem and I am thrilled to finally be back here with my incredible crew"

Asheville was commissioned in September 1991 and is the fourth ship of the U.S. Navy named for the city of Asheville, North Carolina. Measuring more than 360 feet long and displacing more than 6,900 tons, *Asheville* has a crew of approximately 150 sailors. *Asheville* is capable of supporting various missions including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Asheville is assigned to COMSUBRON 15, which is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Apra Harbor, Guam, and consists of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The COMSUBRON 15 staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) and USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39). The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Acting Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Royal View Hotel
Himawari Hotel & Commercial Building
Gualo Rai Townhouse

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Royal View Hotel, the Himawari Hotel & Commercial Building, and the Gualo Rai Town ouse projects.

Mr. Hui Tao Tsang is proposing to construct and operate the Royal View Hotel. The Royal View Hotel is a five-story hotel building in Garapan, Saipan formerly the Sunleader Market. The project includes 51 guest rooms, a snack bar and dining area and 42 parking spaces.

The Himawari Saipan, Inc. is proposing to expand its hotel operation by constructing a 4-story building with 50 additional hotel units. Himawari has an existing 3-story commercial building which includes a hotel of 50 rooms, a grocery store, bakery, restaurant and parking spaces.

The Arcadia Partners, LLC is proposing to construct eight pre-fabricated 3-bedroom townhouses, two- to three-stories each, in Gualo Rai, Saipan. The developer proposes to provide two parking spaces for each unit (16 total parking spaces), as well as swimming pools and landscaping designs for the property.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, January 8, 2018, at 4:30PM. Location to be announced.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about these projects.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

TYAC to hold Toys 4 Tots Event on Tinian

The Tinian Youth Athletes Club is inviting all parents with children ages 3 to 12 years old to its second annual Toys For Tots event at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater from 6pm to 9pm tonight, Dec. 22, 2017. The event will take place concurrently with the Tinian Mayor's Office's annual Christmas Parade and Winter Wonderland celebration.

This year, TYAC is pleased to announce that they will be giving over 900 toys to Tinian's young children, especially those with financial and/or physical needs. TYAC will also be handing out towels to Tinian's *man'amko*, and delivering toys to the children of the Tinian Liaison Office's patients and staff.

TYAC president Connie V. San Nicolas, along with her fellow officers, extend their sincerest gratitude to the following partners for their generous donations this holiday season: Mayor of Tinian Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Star Marianas Air, Mrs. Nicole Su, Marine Corps Activity Guam, Tinian Youth Center, and Alter City Group.

The Tinian Youth Athletes Club is a non-profit organization that was incorporated in October of 2015. The group has adopted the mission of promoting the general welfare and morale of Tinian youth through event participation, programs and tutoring structured toward Tinian youth; and developing self-confidence through leadership skill games and activities. TYAC's officers are Connie V. San Nicolas, president; Jovita Paulino, vice president; Evitalynn Manglona, secretary; and Charlene M. Lizama, treasurer.

Since its incorporation TYAC has been involved in various community events and fundraisers, including the Empty Vessel Foundation Community Outreach, donating to the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School's Boys' Basketball Team's participation in the Guam Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament, and of course, Toys 4 Tots. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard recognizes grand prize winner of art contest

HONOLULU—Coast Guard Sector Honolulu command presented the grand prize winner of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association's "Connecting Ships, Ports and People" art contest at to a student Kapolei Middle School, Oahu, Tuesday.

Camille Quindica, an 8th-grader, was named the grand prizewinner and was personally presented a certificate, gift certificate and Coast Guard gear along with her artwork in the NAMEPA 2018 calendar.

The art contest was sponsored by NAMEPA, The U.S. Coast Guard and the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the Organization of the American States.

"We have winners from overseas and all over and we've been quite fortunate here in Hawaii," said Cmdr. Ulysses Mullins, deputy sector commander, Coast Guard Sector Honolulu. "We've had two back-to-back winners and we've had the opportunity to present the winners in person."

There were over 500 submissions from students in grades ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade throughout North America, South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

For more information about the contest please visit: http://www.namepa.net/art-contest/. ***(PR)***

Distribution of 2017 W2-CM, Annual Reconciliation forms on Dec. 22

This is to advise all employers that the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will begin distributing the 2017 W2-CM and Annual Reconciliation forms and instructions on Friday, Dec. 22, 2017.

Businesses, employers, and all payroll service providers are encouraged to reserve forms needed by calling the Administration Office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000, 664-1098 or via fax at 664-1015.

Forms will be available for pick-up from the Compliance Branch or main office located in the Joeten Dandan Building.

Employers are also reminded that forms are required to be filed at Revenue and Taxation by Feb. 28, 2018. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Design-Build for the Installation of PAPI/REIL at Runway 25 at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

One original and three copies of the sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Runway 25 PAPI/REIL Installation, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Design-Build contractor to provide a complete Design and Construction for the Runway 25's New Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Systems based on the PAPI/REIL Systems to be supplied by CPA. Design and Installation will include other related support tasks as described and all in accordance with the Statement of Work and other information.

The Project is being solely financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Funds have been allocated, and supplemental funding will be made available depending on the bid amounts. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Statement of Work and other information may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference room, at **10:00 AM, Friday, December 15, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

The Contract period for Design and Construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. The performance period shall include all required designs calculations, progress submittal reviews, approval of the final design, complete permitting, procurement of materials, other construction incidentals, system certification, punch list corrections final operational testing, acceptance and other requirements necessary to deliver a complete, usable and dependable PAPI/REIL systems and facilities. Liquidated damages in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70 of the General Provisions. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 16, 2017

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-007

SUPPLY, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION OF NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR PAUPAU BEACH PARK SAN ROQUE, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply, Delivery & Installation of New Playground Equipment for Paupau Beach Park San Roque, Saipan** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after December 21, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **January 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the project site, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 12, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time January 22, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, January 22, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 22, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 31, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 2, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **11:00 a.m. local time, on January 22, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.
Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

Triumphant Trump celebrates tax win—but some fear backlash

President Donald Trump listens during a cabinet meeting at the White House, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, in Washington. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—A triumphant President Donald Trump and jubilant fellow Republicans celebrated the passage of their $1.5 trillion tax overhaul Wednesday as a "historic victory for the American people." The American people, however, will need some convincing.

As Trump and GOP lawmakers gathered at the White House to cheer their first major legislative achievement— and the biggest tax changes in a generation— some Republicans warned that the party could face a painful political backlash against an overhaul that offers corporations and wealthy taxpayers the biggest benefits and was projected to trigger the loss of health care coverage for millions of Americans.

There was no hint of anxiety at the White House, though, as the president and congressional Republicans pushed any qualms aside and reveled in a much-needed win at the end of a year marked by GOP infighting and political stumbles.

"We are making America great again," Trump declared, personally thanking his "little team" of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, before lawmakers lavished praise upon a president they have often openly criticized.

"I don't know if we'll have bigger moments, but we hope to," said Trump.

The president was expected to sign the bill at a later date for technical reasons. In fact, the signing may be postponed until the start of the new calendar year in order to delay $120 billion in automatic cuts to popular programs such as Medicare and spare Republicans from having to explain them in an election year.

The tax package provides a deep cut in the corporate rate, from 35 percent to 21 percent. On the individual side, about 80 percent of American households will get tax cuts next year, while about 5 percent will pay more, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center.

People who make less than $25,000 will see an average tax cut of $60; those who earn between $49,000 and $86,000 will get about $900, and those in the top 1 percent of income— earning more than $733,000— will receive around $51,000 in tax savings, the policy center said.

The cuts will come at a price: The Congressional Budget Office predicts the legislation will add $1.4 trillion to the national debt over the next decade.

Some of the president's strongest allies conceded that voters may not immediately warm to the new law.

Andy Surabian, a senior aide for a pro-Trump super PAC, likened the president's position to that of Ronald Reagan, who struggled through low approval ratings early in his presidential term after Congress passed a tax cut that led to huge Republican losses in the 1982 midterm elections. Reagan went on to a sweeping re-election in 1984 after the economy improved.

Said Surabian: "Even if we don't start seeing positive effects in 2018, the important thing here is President Trump sets himself up to win re-election in 2020."

GOP strategists and candidates alike called on Trump to launch an immediate public relations tour to sell the plan to help avert an anti-Republican tsunami in 2018.

"People don't understand it," said Virginia Republican Senate candidate Corey Stewart, though he still called passage "a massive win" for Trump and the GOP.

Only about 1 in 3 voters have supported the legislation in recent days, according to several polls. About half of Americans believe the plan will hurt their personal finances. And 2 in 3 voters say the wealthy will get the most benefits, according to a USA Today/Suffolk University poll released last week

The White House said Wednesday that Trump will actively promote the bill. Aides argued that media coverage has not accurately portrayed the benefits and that people will come around as they feel the payoff.

Trump himself complained in a tweet that "defeated Dems" and the media were out to "demean" the tax package but "the results will speak for themselves, starting very soon."

Democrats, who unanimously opposed the tax plan in Congress, were furious about the new policy yet upbeat about the potential political fallout in next year's elections. They need to flip 24 House seats and just two Senate seats to take control of each chamber.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2018 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at Pacific Islands Club-Annex from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda of December 28, 2017**
IV. **Review and Adoption of Minutes:**
  A. Statewide Independent Living Council FY 2017 Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2017
  B. State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council FY 2017 Joint Fourth General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2017
V. **Reports**
  A. Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
  B. Center for Living Independently Executive Director
  C. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director
VI. **Action Items**
  A. Election of Secretary
VII. **Old Business**
  A. Statewide Independent Living Council Membership
  B. State Plan for Independent Living Implementation Update
VIII. **New Business**
  A. Statewide Plan for Independent Living Councils Congress Conference
IX. **Consumer Forum**
X. **Announcement/Miscellaneous**
XI. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Friday, December 22, 2017.

/s/ **Gernadine Camacho**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-18

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 27, 2017 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, BTMIA, Rota, Project No. CPA-RA-002-18". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Rota on **December 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Benjamin Manglona Rota International Airport (CPA) conference room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Rota Ports Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.
CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **171 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-038, Rev. 1, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2018** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). ***Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.***

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS
(Revised December 13, 2017)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-18-004, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 26, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.*

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders shall comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 10, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org; and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-18

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Solid Waste Collection Services** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **bid package** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning **December 22, 2017** upon payment of **$100.00**. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until **2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, January 12, 2018**. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-18". Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

_____

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

INSTALLATION OF MARINE FENDERS
PORT OF SAIPAN
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-18

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install marine fenders at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for proposals, of the NMIAC is applicable to the process followed by this RFP.

The proposal package containing the Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 30, 2017, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal (bid) bond issued by a U.S. Treasury Listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nation

Expert: New route may have distracted engineer before crash

SEATTLE (AP)—Experts say it's possible the engineer on an Amtrak train that derailed as it hurtled into a curve at more than twice the speed limit was distracted for an extended period of time before the train plunged off an overpass and onto a busy interstate, a key factor in the investigation.

Authorities on Wednesday reopened two southbound lanes of Interstate 5— the Pacific Northwest's main north-south arterial— that had been closed since Monday's accident as federal investigators focused on whether the engineer's attention was diverted by a second person in the cab, or by something else.

Three men were killed Monday south of Seattle when the train barreled into a 30 mph zone at 80 mph. Southbound lanes of Interstate 5 near DuPont had been closed at the accident ever since.

A conductor in training who was familiarizing himself with the new route was in the locomotive with the engineer at the time. A federal official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity said authorities want to know whether the engineer lost "situational awareness"— didn't realize where he was.

Rail-safety experts say that while it is fairly common to have two people in a cab, investigators will look into whether that may have distracted the engineer.

"What interactions were the conductor and the engineer having and did that distract the engineer from his focus on where they were on the route?" said Keith Millhouse, a rail-safety consultant who was former board chairman of Metrolink, Southern California's commuter rail system.

Millhouse said the two could have been having discussions that caused the engineer to not realize where he was on the route.

"My guess is there were probably distractions not only immediately prior to the accident but in the minutes leading up to the accident," he said.

Investigators had not yet interviewed the train engineer and other crew members— all of whom were hospitalized— as of Wednesday morning, a National Transportation Safety Board spokesman said. Experts say investigators will want to talk to them as soon as possible while the event is still fresh in their memory.

NTSB board member Bella Dinh-Zarr said Tuesday they were in the early stage of the investigation, and authorities won't determine a probable cause while on scene. She said distraction is one of the most looked at priorities, and investigators will be looking at cellphone records of all employees.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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OPERATIONS BUILDING DEMOLITION AND PARKING EXPANSION
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-17
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for Design-Build services for the demolition and removal of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's old operations building, installation of new chain-link fence connecting the existing perimeter fence at the location where the structure is to be removed, and the design and construction of a new commercial asphalt cement parking lot expansion (16 stalls) meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Operations Building Demolition/Parking Lot Expansion – Design/Build Services"***. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (see Appendix A in SOW); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00)** shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA Engineering.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	60%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
4.	Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 7, 2017

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

AMENDED FOR THE February 17, 2017 NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	11/28/2017 SLRm-2018-X-022	In-Water Maintenance of Jade Lady III	Outer Cove Marina, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/11/2017
2. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	12/18/2017 ~~SLRm 2010 X 015~~ (Issued New No. SLR-2018-X-028)	Marine Sports Renewal Managaha Transfer	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/20/2017
3. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2009-X-073	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkel & Kayaking	Garapan (Fiesta Resort), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/18/2017
4. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2009-X-072	Marine Sports Renewal Banana Boat	Garapan (Fiesta Resort), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/18/2017
5. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	11/28/2017 SLRm-2009-X-087	Marine Sports Renewal Wakeboarding	Garapan (Fiesta Resort), Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/18/2017
6. Commonwealth Ports Authority	12/4/2017 SSPI-2018-X-024	Geotechnical Survey	Lower Base, Saipan	Shoreline & Ports & Industrial	Approved - 12/11/2017
7. Saipan A-Venture, LLC dba Saipan Adventure	12/5/2017 SLRm-2017-X-009	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling	All Saipan Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/6/2017
8. Saipan Aqua World, Inc.	12/6/2017 SLRm-96-X-201	Marine Sports Renewal Sea Walker	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/6/2017
9. Saipan Crew Boats Inc.	12/7/2017 SPI-2018-X-025	Drydock	Sea Port, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 12/11/2017
10. Saipan Hua Mei Development Limited Corporation dba Palm Resort Hotel	12/11/2017 SMS-2018-X-026	Construction of 47 room resort hotel	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
11. United Front Co. dba Super Fish	12/15/2017 SLRm-2003-X-165	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/18/2017
12. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	12/18/2017 SPI-2018-X-027	Drydock	South Sea Plane, Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved - 12/18/2017
13. Deep Blue Sea Corporation	12/19/2017 S/TLRm-2015-X-071	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
14. Aquatic Marine Co., Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	12/20/2017 SLRm-00-X-328	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
15. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	12/20/2017 SLRm-2014-X-065	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major siting's. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Asia

S. Korea fires warning shots after N. soldier defects

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean soldiers fired 20 warning machine gun rounds Thursday, turning back North Korean soldiers apparently pursuing a comrade who had earlier dashed across the rivals' shared border, officials said. It is the fourth time this year a North Korean soldier has defected across the world's most heavily armed border.

South Korean military officials said they heard gunfire from the North after South Korea fired its warning shots, but it wasn't clear if the firing was retaliatory. Neither side immediately reported casualties.

North Korean soldiers occasionally flee over the land border, but there have been few defections as dramatic as one that happened nearly 40 days ago, when a northern soldier crossed at a different, very public place— a jointly controlled area that is the only place where troops from the rivals face off only feet away from each other. That soldier was shot five times by his former comrades in an escape caught on video. He has been recovering in a hospital. The site of that defection is familiar to many foreign tourists, who can visit the blue huts that straddle the line between the rivals.

Thursday's defection happened at a much more remote section of the 4 kilometer (2.5 mile)-wide, 248-kilometer (155-mile)—long Demilitarized Zone, which serves as the border between the Koreas. When the defecting soldier— reportedly a 19-year-old— arrived at a front-line South Korean guard post, there was no shooting from the North, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said the motive for the defection is under investigation.

Later Thursday, however, South Korea's military detected several North Korean soldiers approaching the line between the countries in the DMZ, prompting the South to broadcast a warning and fire 20 warning shots, said a South Korean defense official, requesting anonymity because of department rules.

The North Korean soldiers who approached the line were believed to be on a mission to hunt down their defecting comrade. They turned back to the North after the South's warning shots, the official said. About 40 minutes later, soldiers twice heard several rounds of gunshot on the North Korean side of the border. No North Korean bullets were found in the South, the official said.

The latest defection was the fourth North Korean soldier to flee through the DMZ this year, the Defense Ministry said. About 30,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea mostly via China since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CNMI Government

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-003-18

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT 2018 SUV VEHICLE 6CYL/4WD, AUTO TRANSMISSION, AIR-CONDITION WHITE COLOR, ALL OTHER FEATURES AS PER FACTORY SPECS. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER THE VEHICLE TO THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **"PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-18"** BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2017. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp prior to December 18, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-18
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 08, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.
"LEASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECHO DOCK"
PORT OF SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING NOVEMBER 22, 2017.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **CONFIDENTIAL "LEASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECHO DOCK (RFP-001-18)"**. PROPOSERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PROPOSAL. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL TERMINAL BY JANUARY 08, 2018 AT 2:00 P.M..

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO** DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2017
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2008

For: HAPPY CHILDREN IN PARADISE CAMPAIGN
20th ANNIVERSARY SAIPAN-DA BACKPACKS

Submission /Closing Date: **January 22, 2018** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **December 18, 2017, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan,** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by January 22, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Ms. Brenda Repeki in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to brepeki@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **January 22, 2018.**

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Ms. Brenda Repeki at brepeki@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 5, 2018.**

/s/ Christopher J. Nelson
Acting Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 18-004
Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station on Tinian.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2017-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH navy chief removed for questioning frigate deal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense secretary said Wednesday the navy chief was removed from his post for defiantly opposing an already-approved deal to buy two frigates from a South Korean shipbuilder and causing delays to the acquisition of the warships. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana's remarks about the cause of Vice Adm. Ronald Joseph Mercado's relief is a rare public disclosure of a top-level disagreement within the military and defense department. Mercado was not being investigated for any wrongdoing and was moved to another military office. "I have lost trust and confidence in his integrity and leadership," Lorenzana told reporters. "He goes around, forum shopping and he talks about rescinding the contract if the company he was introducing won't be chosen ... I had to recommend his relief and it was approved by the president." Lorenzana said he questioned Mercado's insistence that one company be granted a contract to install a defense feature, the "combat management system," on the two frigates when that had already been included in the deal granted to Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Bus slams into trailer in Pakistan, killing 11

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—Police say a speeding passenger bus has collided with a parked long trailer on a highway in central Pakistan where heavy fog limited visibility, killing 11 people and wounding 20 others. A local motorway police official, Talat Mahmood, says the accident happened Thursday near the town of Khanewal, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of the city of Multan in the Punjab province. Thick fog has enveloped parts of Pakistan in recent weeks, contributing to several accidents. Deadly road accidents are common in Pakistan, where motorists often disregard traffic laws.

Car rams into pedestrians in Melbourne; up to 19 injured

SYDNEY (AP)—Two men were arrested after the car in which they were travelling crashed into pedestrians on a busy Melbourne street Thursday, leaving up to 19 people injured, media reports said. The motive of the incident was not clear immediately. Sky News Australia reported police arrested the driver of the white Suzuki SUV that plowed into the crowd and another man who was in the vehicle with him. Sky News said the driver was was wrestled to the ground and handcuffed after his vehicle crashed into a bollard by a cable car stop around 4:40 p.m. Media reports said 13 people have been taken to hospitals, including a pre-school aged child in serious condition with head injuries. Witnesses told Sky News Australia the car ran a red light, speeded up and struck pedestrians on Flinders Street in the Melbourne central business district. "As it (the car) approached this intersection ... it just mowed everybody down, people were flying everywhere," one witness who identified herself only as Sue told radio station 3AW. Victorian state police said in a statement they had "saturated the ... area in the vicinity of Flinders, Elizabeth and Swanston streets to ensure community safety." The area was busy with Christmas shoppers at the time of the incident.

World

Trump threatens Jerusalem opponents with US funding cutoff

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Donald Trump threatened Wednesday to cut off U.S. funding to countries that support a resolution criticizing his decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"We'll save a lot. We don't care," he said, alluding to U.S. aid.

The president strongly supported U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley who said Tuesday that the United States "will be taking names" of countries that vote in favor of a General Assembly resolution Thursday declaring that Jerusalem's status can be changed only by direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"For all these nations, they take our money and then vote against us. They take hundreds of millions of dollars, even billions of dollars and then they vote against us," Trump told reporters at a Cabinet meeting in Washington with Haley sitting nearby. "We're watching those votes. Let them vote against us."

In a letter to over 180 of the 193 U.N. member states and an even tougher tweet Tuesday, Haley hinted at possible U.S. retaliation but Trump's comments made clear to recipients of U.S. assistance that billions of dollars could be at stake.

Haley's threat drew sharp criticism from the Palestinian and Turkish foreign ministers before they flew to New York for the General Assembly vote. They accused the U.S. of intimidation.

Nihad Awad, national executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, tweeted after Trump's comments: "Our government should not use its leadership at the UN to bully/blackmail other nations that stand for religious liberty and justice in Jerusalem. Justice is a core value of Christianity, Judaism and Islam."

AP
President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, in Washington.

Ambassador Rhonda King of the tiny Caribbean nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines sent Haley a letter saying that her country treasures the United States "as an enduring ally" but will vote against Trump's action.

"Sometimes, friends differ; on Jerusalem, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines respectfully differs from the USA; and so, too, do many of the staunchest friends and allies of the USA," King wrote. "We gently urge yet again that the government of the USA rethink its position and approach on this entire matter."

Before Haley's letter and tweet, Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour told The Associated Press he expected "massive support" for the resolution in the General Assembly.

What impact the threats from Trump and Haley will have remains to be seen.

Palestinian girl praised as hero after confronting soldiers

NEBI SALEH, West Bank (AP)—The curly haired Palestinian teenager is seen walking up to two Israeli soldiers standing near the entrance of her house, and she can be heard telling them to leave. She then pushes and kicks both soldiers who casually fend off the blows.

Then she slaps one soldier hard in the face.

Now, the 16-year-old girl from the village of Nebi Saleh is being celebrated by Palestinians as a hero and symbol of a new generation after confronting the two soldiers in a melee caught on a video that has been widely watched.

In Israel, the soldiers' decision not to react to the seeming provocation by Ahed Tamimi, a blonde firebrand, has stirred a debate about deterrence and drawn allegations that the army was humiliated.

Three days after the Friday confrontation, amid an uproar in Israel, Tamimi was arrested from her home in a pre-dawn raid and now faces charges of attacking soldiers.

She was led in leg shackles to an Israeli military courtroom where a judge reserved a decision on whether to keep her without bail. He ordered her held for five more days, a decision that was appealed by her defense lawyer.

"Stay strong, stay strong," her father Bassem, a veteran activist, shouted from the spectators' section.

The sharply conflicting Palestinian and Israeli interpretations of the widely viewed video clip highlight the deep rift between the two societies, at a time of heightened tension over the status of contested Jerusalem, the centerpiece of the long-running conflict.

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, setting off widespread protests by Palestinians who seek the city's Israeli-annexed eastern sector as a capital.

Trump has said his statement did not define the boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, but his move was seen by Palestinians as a sign of pro-Israel bias. In response, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said the U.S. can no longer be a Mideast mediator.

Nebi Saleh is a village of about 600 people, most of them members of Tamimi's extended family. For eight years, villagers along with Israeli and foreign activists have protested weekly against Israeli policies in the West Bank.

Key ally of British prime minister resigns amid porn scandal

LONDON (AP)—A key ally of British Prime Minister Theresa May was forced to resign Wednesday after an investigation concluded he made misleading statements about pornographic images found on a Parliament computer in his office in 2008.

Damian Green, who was ousted as first secretary of state, maintains he did not use pornography on his office computers, but he agreed he had not been forthcoming in statements made about the matter in November.

A report by May's Cabinet secretary concluded Green had made misleading statements regarding his knowledge about the indecent images found by police.

"I accept that I should have been clear in my press statements that police lawyers talked to my lawyers in 2008 about the pornography on the computers, and that the police raised it with me in a subsequent phone call in 2013," Green said in his resignation letter, which was made public Wednesday night.

May said she asked Green for his resignation after the investigation concluded he had not been open about the matter.

"I have also carefully considered the report's conclusions in relation to two statements you made on 4 and 11 November which you now accept were inaccurate and misleading," the prime minister wrote in a letter requesting Green to step aside. She said he had fallen short of the standards expected of him.

"It is therefore with deep regret, and enduring gratitude for the contribution you have made over many years, that I asked you to resign from the Government and have accepted your resignation," May wrote.

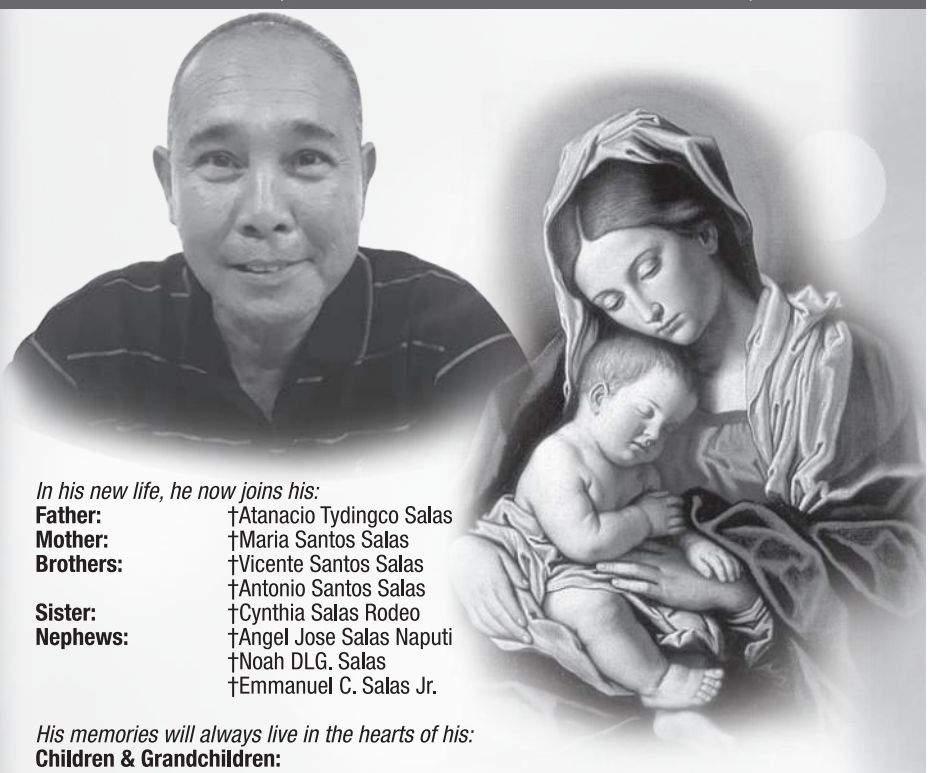
Green was a vital political ally who acted as a de facto deputy prime minister and supported May in her difficult Brexit negotiations. His removal will cost her an important supporter as she tries to balance competing visions of Brexit within her Cabinet.

Green had claimed earlier he was the victim of a smear campaign. The pornography was found on his office computer during a police investigation of government leaks.

In Celebration Of His New Life

JOSE SANTOS SALAS

Lovingly known as "Pepi"
Born to life: March 20, 1960 Called to Eternal Life: December 18, 2017



In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Atanacio Tydingco Salas
Mother: †Maria Santos Salas
Brothers: †Vicente Santos Salas
†Antonio Santos Salas
Sister: †Cynthia Salas Rodeo
Nephews: †Angel Jose Salas Naputi
†Noah DLG. Salas
†Emmanuel C. Salas Jr.

His memories will always live in the hearts of his:

Children & Grandchildren:
Jonathan Baza Salas
Amanda Baza Salas/Francisco Cruz (Aria, Denise)
Ashley Baza Bornilla/ Shane Mendiola (Kylie, Ellie, Tylee)

Brothers/Sisters/In-Laws:
Martin S. Salas/†Theresa L. Salas (Children & Grandchildren)
†Vicente S. Salas/Sophia M. Salas (Children & Grandchildren)
†Antonio S. Salas/Rosalina O. Salas (Children & Grandchildren)
Emmanuel S. Salas/Linda M. Norita (Children & Grandchildren)
†Cynthia S. Rodeo/Allan E. Rodeo (Children & Grandchildren)
Sylveria S. Salas (Children & Grandchildren)
William S. Salas/Yvonne DLG. Salas (Children)
Ramon S. Salas/Dorinda M. Salas (Children & Grandchildren)
Melinda S. Naputi/Augustin S. Naputi (Children)
Joaquin S. Salas/Corazon V. Salas (Children & Grandchildren)
Diego S. San Nicolas/Keiko O. San Nicolas

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives & friends.

Daily mass of intention is being offered at 5:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai, Church until December 25, 2017. On December 26, 2017, mass will be at 6:00 a.m. Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, December 27, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuesta Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by Interment Services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Life & Style

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Christmas in the Marianas continues Dec. 23

Saipan Awaorodi Team leads the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 16, 2017, in Garapan, Saipan.

To celebrate the holidays, the Marianas Visitors Authority and other organizers of the Christmas in The Marianas celebration invite the public to the Paseo de Marianas this Saturday, Dec. 23, for another night of festivities.

Christmas music and vendor sales will begin at 5pm, with live entertainment by Saipan Awaodori Team at 5:30pm, Li'l Hands School of Music at 6pm, Hopwood Middle School at 6:30pm, Saipan Music & Dance Studio at 7:30pm, Alana'ia at 8pm, and FESTPAC Warriors at 8:30pm.

The monthlong Christmas in The Marianas celebration offers weekly holiday entertainment for visitors and residents from 5pm to 9pm and is organized by the MVA, PDM Promoters, Inc., Team PDI, and other travel partners. The event also includes food and beverage sales by various vendors. Local artists will offer arts and crafts for last minute shoppers, as well.

Last week's celebration featured the after-dark Christmas Parade of Lights, Christmas Costume Catwalk, and school awards for Best Float, Best Christmas Costume, Best Caroling, and Best Christmas Tree Decorating.

The Japanese Mochitsuki Festival will be held on Dec. 30, marking the pounding of rice to make "mochi," a traditional event in preparation for the New Year. Dec. 30 will also feature individual acts; interested musicians and performers may contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Lynn Sablan at 664-3200/01 or jsablan@mymarianas.com to request to be scheduled or for more information. ***(PR)***

Young people make their Christmas wishes at Christmas in The Marianas on Dec. 16, 2017, at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan, Saipan. The festivities continue on Dec. 23, 2017, from 5pm to 9pm.

Students wear costumes made from recycled material during the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 16, 2017, in Garapan, Saipan.

Northern Marianas International School moves down the parade rouate during the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 16, 2017, in Garapan, Saipan.

Chacha Ocean View Middle School presents their 1st place float during the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 16, 2017, in Garapan, Saipan.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer makes an appearance during the Christmas Parade of Lights on Dec. 16, 2017, in Garapan, Saipan.

Green Meadow Middle School students show their warrior costumes made from recycled material during the Christmas Costume Catwalk on Dec. 16, 2017, at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan, Saipan. The Christmas in The Marianas festivities will continue on Dec. 23, 2017.

3 of Hoffman's accusers explain why they decided to talk now

AP
This Dec. 19, 2017 image taken from video shows, Dustin Hoffman accusers Anna Graham Hunter, from left, Cori Thomas and Kathryn Rossetter during an interview in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Three women who have accused Dustin Hoffman of sexual misconduct say they are still able to watch his movies because they are able to separate the artist from his actions.

One of his alleged victims, Cori Thomas, said she still has admiration for him— though she now sees him as a fallen idol.

"I wanted to be a method actor like him. I was so impressed with his performances in 'Midnight Cowboy' and that sort of thing. So I really wanted to do that kind of work. And so I think I feel, felt just disappointed. I felt disillusioned," she said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I felt disappointed by somebody who I thought was maybe bigger than life and maybe that's the lesson is that nobody is bigger than life. You know we're all humans, but at the same time there's also right and wrong. You know everyone is accountable."

A handful of women have come forward to accuse the "Tootsie" star of sexual misconduct, some of which allegedly occurred decades ago. The 80-year-old initially apologized for making one accuser feel uncomfortable with his comments, but in a testy conversation with comedian John Oliver at public talk earlier this month, he denied any wrongdoing. His representative didn't return a message from the AP seeking comment Tuesday on the women's allegations.

Three of his accusers spoke to various media outlets Tuesday, detailing their experiences with Hoffman and trying to explain why they decided to come forward now.

Kathryn Rossetter, an actress who shared the stage with Hoffman in the 1984 Broadway revival of "Death of a Salesman," said she knows she's going to "take a beating" for waiting to tell her story, but she said the sexual misconduct allegations that toppled Harvey Weinstein gave her the impetus to speak up.

"I was committed to having my whole story published because it's such a long story of how he was a hero and then it was a bait-and-switch in the aftermath," she said.

Rossetter saw Hoffman as her hero when he helped her land her first Broadway play, but things quickly soured when she says he started repeatedly groping her backstage. She claims he even tried to penetrate her with his finger. Even after she was finally able to gain the courage to come forward to tell her story, Rossetter still struggles with the shame, especially when she had to break the news to her elderly father.

"It's not easy. I deal with it by trying not to look at all the negative comments. I know the truth. I know I have to live my truth," she said.

Anna Graham Hunter was the first woman to come forward. She was a 17-year-old high school senior working as an intern on the film version of "Death of a Salesman" in 1985. She remembers the actor asking her for a foot rub on her first day on the set. She obliged but said it made her uncomfortable. She claims the actor often used sexual language and even grabbed her buttocks several times. Hunter says she struck him in an effort to make it stop.

Khloe Kardashian confirms pregnancy with Instagram post

AP
This combination photo shows television personality Khloe Kardashian at the NBCUniversal Network 2017 Upfront at Radio City Music Hall in New York on May 15, 2017, in New York, right, and Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson at the NBA basketball team media day in Independence, Ohio, on Sept. 25, 2017, left. Kardashian confirmed Wednesday, Dec. 20, on Instagram that she is expecting her first child with boyfriend Thompson.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Khloe Kardashian is pregnant.

The reality star confirmed Wednesday on Instagram that she is expecting her first child with boyfriend Tristan Thompson. She included a photo of her pregnant belly with the post.

The 33-year-old Kardashian said she is "thankful, excited, nervous, eager, overjoyed and scared all in one" and called the pregnancy "my greatest dream realized."

Kardashian is the younger sister of Kim Kardashian West. Thompson plays center-forward with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The couple's pregnancy had been rumored for months. Khloe Kardashian said in her post Wednesday that they intentionally kept the news quiet so they could "enjoy this between our family and close friends as long as we could privately."

Woman sues rapper Nelly claiming sexual assault, defamation

AP
In this March 13, 2015, file photo, rapper Nelly approaches the stage for a concert in Irbil, northern Iraq.

SEATTLE (AP)—A woman has sued the rapper Nelly, claiming he sexually assaulted her on his tour bus and later damaged her reputation by refuting her account.

The Seattle Times reported Wednesday that Monique Greene's lawsuit against Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Haynes Jr., seeks unspecified damages.

The rapper was arrested on his tour bus in a suburban Seattle Walmart parking lot in October. Prosecutors said last week they weren't charging him because the woman wasn't cooperating with the case.

Nelly's attorney says the lawsuit is financially motivated and a countersuit is planned.

Greene's lawyer, Karen Koehler, said her client only sued after the rapper publicly contended last week that Greene fabricated her story.

The Associated Press generally doesn't name people who say they're victims of sex crimes, but Koehler said Greene agreed to be publicly identified.

European vacation plans are tripped up by broken ankle

DEAR ABBY: I had planned a trip to Europe with my friend "Elizabeth," a friend of hers and Elizabeth's daughter. The plan was I would share rooms with Elizabeth. We paid for the hotels in advance.

Shortly before our scheduled departure I fell, broke my ankle and couldn't go. We tried unsuccessfully to obtain some kind of refunds, and travel insurance paid only if the accident happened while we were actually traveling.

I was out $2,000. Elizabeth's friend offered me $500. Elizabeth, feeling some obligation, also offered me $500. I feel guilty taking Elizabeth's money because she paid for herself and her daughter. I think the other woman should give me at least half—not just $500—because she derived 100 percent of the benefit. Also, she has never reached out to me directly at all.

No money has been received at this point. Should I just write it off? Or am I wrong to expect some of the money back?

MONEY WOES IN THE EAST

DEAR MONEY WOES: Yes, you are wrong. Nobody owes you anything. Accidents happen, but the broken ankle was your bad luck. It was generous of Elizabeth and her friend to offer you any money at all. My advice is to accept it graciously, write the rest off, and stop looking for someone to be mad at.

DEAR ABBY: One of my relatives has bipolar disorder, and as far as I know he takes medicine for it. However, at our Christmas celebration last year he became verbally aggressive and abusive toward a family member who had done nothing to provoke it. Needless to say, it put a damper on the festivities.

Some people make excuses for him because he's bipolar, but I don't want another holiday ruined because of his behavior (which can be unpredictable). Must the rest of us sit on pins and needles hoping he doesn't explode this Christmas? I'd prefer not to invite him until he has better control of himself. Your opinion, please?

HOPING FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS

DEAR HOPING: You have a point. A solution might be to talk directly with your relative and explain that if he's taking his medication—which means there will be no unpredictable outbursts—he is welcome to be your guest for Christmas. If not, however, he should make other plans.

DEAR ABBY: On Veterans' Day I visited my family's cemetery plot and noticed my closest uncle does not have a military service marker like his two older brothers do. "Uncle Claude" had frequently mentioned to me how important a service marker was to him. I discussed it with his two out-of-state children several times after his death.

Almost two years have passed now, and it appears getting the marker might not happen. Should I inquire about this with my cousins, offer to assist them in getting and placing the marker or let it go? I did place a small flag on his grave later in the day.

MILITARY SERVICE MARKER

DEAR M.S.M.: Discuss this with your cousins once more and ask if they would like you to pursue getting the marker for your uncle. There may be reasons whhy it hasn't happened—including that they may not be able to afford the expense. You will never know unless you inquire.

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

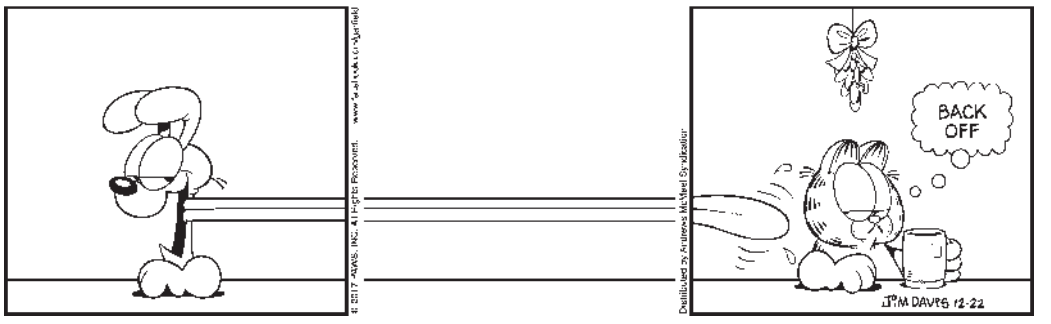
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, I'VE DECIDED I DO BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS. NO MATTER HOW PREPOSTEROUS HE SOUNDS.
WHAT CONVINCED YOU?
A SIMPLE RISK ANALYSIS.
I WANT PRESENTS. LOTS OF PRESENTS. WHY RISK NOT GETTING THEM OVER A MATTER OF BELIEF? HECK, I'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING THEY WANT.
HOW CYNICALLY ENTERPRISING OF YOU.
IT'S THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

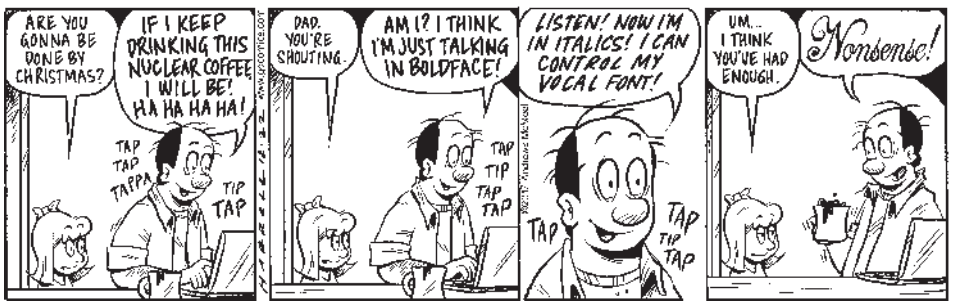
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



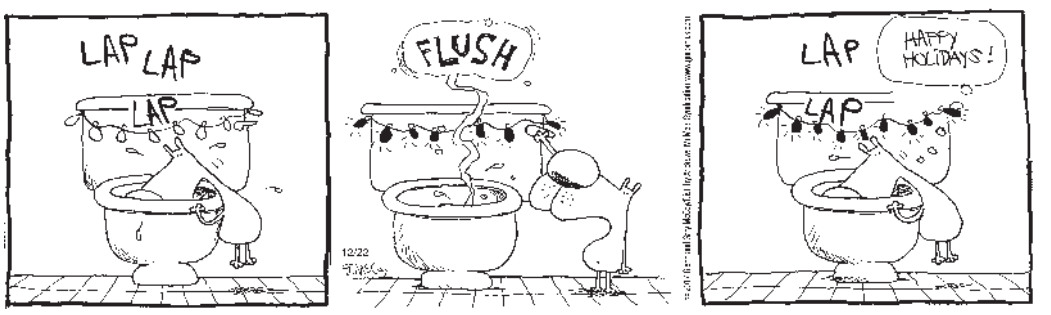
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ARE YOU GONNA BE DONE BY CHRISTMAS?
IF I KEEP DRINKING THIS NUCLEAR COFFEE I WILL BE! HA HA HA HA!
TAP TAP TAPPA
TIP TAP
DAD. YOU'RE SHOUTING.
AM I? I THINK I'M JUST TALKING IN BOLDFACE!
TAP TIP TAP TAP
LISTEN! NOW I'M IN ITALICS! I CAN CONTROL MY VOCAL FONT!
TAP
TAP TIP TAP
UM... I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.
Nonsense!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 [Yawn]
6 Praise in verse
9 Jungfrau, for one
12 Where the action is
13 "See ya!"
14 "Cock-a-doodle-—!"
15 Like stale bread
16 "Holy cow!"
18 Merged, as resources
20 Down-wind
21 "Evita" narrator
23 Fun and games
24 Pollster's find
25 String
27 Arcade pioneer
29 Cap features
31 Sounded hoarse
35 Coffee bar offering
37 Mata —
38 Staggers
41 WWII service-woman
43 Atlas page
44 — account (never)
45 Little accident
47 Evening prayers
49 "Rumor has it ..."
52 Outback bird
53 Deep hole
54 T-shirt size
55 Reuben bread
56 Ninny
57 English county

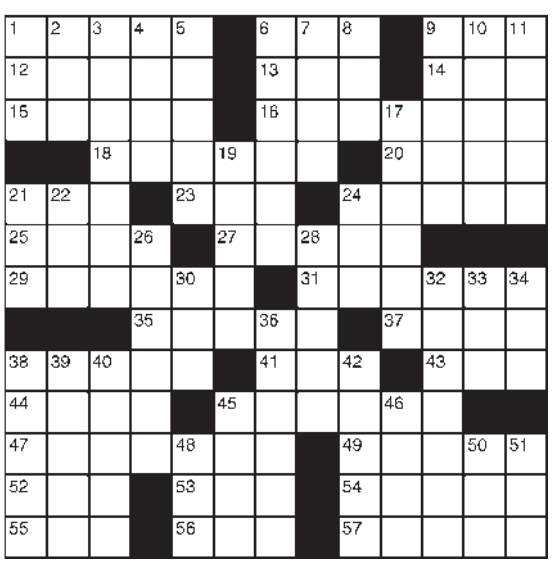
DOWN

1 Deli meat
2 Spanish gold
3 Santa's aides
4 Nullify
5 City boss
6 Thing
7 Turned blue?
8 Shoe width
9 "Rumour Has It" singer
10 Actress Sophia
11 Sat for a photo
17 Diocese part
19 Minimal
21 Roman 205
22 — polloi
24 La-la lead-in
26 Sour cream serving
28 Locales
30 Univ. dorm supervisors
32 Molly-coddles
33 Epoch
34 Quick swim
36 Contorts
38 Mars explorer
39 Adversary
40 Follow
42 Peru neighbor
45 Hosp. scans
46 Cries of discovery
48 Ecol. watchdog
50 Get older
51 Actor Harrison

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	H	I	P		D	A	N		S	T	A	N
O	A	T	H		O	V	A		P	I	L	E
M	I	S	C		C	E	R			N	I	O
P	R	Y	B	A	R		C	A	R	S	O	N
			I	D	S			N	A	M		
A	S	T	A		T	I	N	G	L	I	N	G
C	C	I			F	C	O			T	R	A
T	I	N	T	Y	P	E	S		C	H	A	P
		K	I	A			E	P	A			
S	N	E	A	K	Y		D	A	R	K	E	N
H	E	R	R		O	B	I		R	I	D	E
A	R	E	A		G	O	V		O	L	D	S
G	O	D	S		A	T	F		C	Y	S	

Yesterday's answer 12-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jordin Sparks, 28; Brooke Nevin, 35; Ralph Fiennes, 55; Diane Sawyer, 72.

Happy Birthday: If you want to donate something, offer your time and creative solutions rather than your money. You can make a difference in your personal life by being more responsible. Charity begins at home, and that should be your priority. You can bring the people you love closer together by offering a safe and loving environment that encourages trust and loyalty. Your numbers are 2, 6, 15, 26, 31, 24, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your life simple and use your intelligence and skills to help you maneuver through any situation or dilemma you face. Getting along with friends and relatives will require patience. Focus on what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll be taken advantage of if you give in to unreasonable demands. Concentrate on what you need to clear up before the year comes to a close. Set a course that will put pending finances, contracts or settlements to rest. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Strive to gain complete control over the matters that mean the most to you. Getting together with others and discussing your plans will help you gain support. Use your imagination and you'll come up with innovative solutions that will protect your status and reputation. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be careful how you approach relatives who may not share your opinions. It may be best to remain quiet and enjoy the festivities going on around you. Youngsters will bring you great pleasure. A personal relationship will take an unusual turn. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Relationships should be your top priority. Taking care of loose ends and preparing to close the year on a high note are encouraged. Love and romance will give way to positive plans for the future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Personal gains will be yours once you take care of the small but important details that are blocking you from following through with your plans. Discipline and hard work will pay off and make you look good. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let people from your past disrupt your life and your future. Emotions will be stirred up if you attend a reunion or frequent some of the places you used to hang out. Personal changes will evolve if you do some soul-searching. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Financial matters will have to be dealt with carefully. An unrealistic expectation that doesn't materialize will leave you questioning what you should do next. Prudence should be your plan for now. Offer hands-on help, not money. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make positive changes at home. Sprucing up your surroundings or updating your image will give you the confidence to take part in the festivities happening at work or in your community. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take charge and forge ahead with enthusiasm and determination. Refuse to let emotions take over. Know what you want and set your sights on reaching your destination regardless of what others do. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Tidy up loose ends at work or at home. Clear your calendar so you can enjoy the festivities going on around you. Refrain from overspending or trying to buy someone's love and affection. Personal change is encouraged. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Know exactly how much disposable cash you have on hand and don't spend a penny more. Use your imagination when it comes to updating the way you look or how you present what you want to do. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, inventive and persuasive. You are elaborate and inquisitive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7		3		5			
				4			9	
1		3	6		2			
	1				8		7	
8		5				6		
		6		2	3		4	
9			7					
		1		9		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	8	1	4	7	2	5	3	6
2	3	5	6	8	1	9	7	4
6	4	7	3	5	9	2	1	8
8	7	6	9	1	5	3	4	2
5	9	3	8	2	4	1	6	7
1	2	4	7	6	3	8	9	5
3	6	9	5	4	8	7	2	1
4	5	2	1	3	7	6	8	9
7	1	8	2	9	6	4	5	3

Difficulty level ★★★ 12/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DICK GREGORY (1932-2017) Solution: 8 letters

M	O	N	O	L	O	G	U	E	N	N	Y	L	L	R
I	N	E	C	E	Y	R	O	G	E	R	G	U	I	E
C	A	Z	H	C	A	A	Y	A	N	N	A	C	L	L
H	I	W	I	N	T	S	S	K	T	P	H	I	L	E
E	T	O	C	A	E	W	E	C	E	A	E	L	I	V
L	S	H	A	H	X	O	M	I	R	M	F	L	A	A
E	I	S	G	O	A	H	A	D	T	E	N	E	N	N
I	R	U	O	Y	S	S	J	T	A	L	E	N	T	T
N	H	T	I	M	S	R	C	T	I	A	R	M	Y	I
A	C	B	R	R	R	E	H	T	N	A	P	A	A	R
H	A	R	U	E	N	E	R	P	E	R	T	N	E	E
P	T	I	N	T	U	R	E	A	R	O	T	C	A	K
E	H	G	N	I	S	I	W	U	V	I	L	O	V	E
T	Y	H	E	R	R	F	O	L	E	I	S	U	R	E
S	S	T	R	W	M	T	P	A	U	T	H	O	R	S

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Actor, Army, Author, Ayanna, Bright, Cathy, Chicago, Christian, Dick, Entertainer, Entrepreneur, Fire, Gregory, Hetner, Hughes, James, Leisure, Lillian, Love, Lucille, Lynne, Michele, Monologue, Mr. Sun, Paar, Pamela, Panther, Paula, Power, Relevant, Richard Jr., Runner, Seeker, Shows, Showzen, Smith, Stephanie, Talent, Texas, Writer, Yohance

Yesterday's Answer: Address

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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

GEMMA TARROZA-BATUSIN, Petitioner, Versus **NORBERTO M. BATUSIN** Respondent.	))))	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0469 **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 3rd day of October, 2017
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's Degree in Nursing;
- At least one (1) year experience in nursing/health care setting; &
- Must be a U.S. Licensed Registered Nurse.

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Marianas Medical Center
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Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-3926
E-mail: polly.masga@mmcsaipan.com

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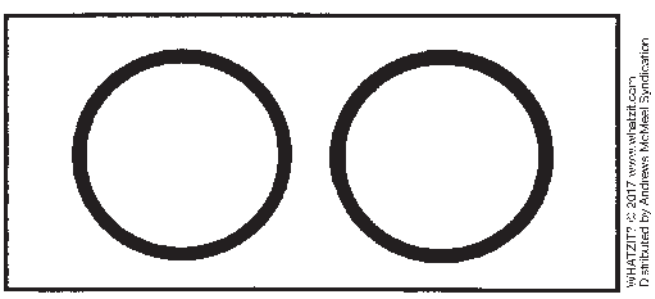

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Find today's solution in classified section

Lakers overcome Harden's 51 to end Rockets' streak

HOUSTON (AP)—Rookie Kyle Kuzma set career highs with 38 points and seven 3-pointers, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame 51 points from James Harden to end the Houston Rockets' 14-game winning streak with a 122-116 victory Wednesday night.

It was Houston's first loss since Nov. 14 and snapped a three-game skid for the Lakers.

The game was tied before Los Angeles scored 10 straight points—while Houston missed seven shots in a row—to go up 110-100 with about four minutes left.

Houston ended an almost four-minute scoring drought when Harden made a free throw, and he added three more after being fouled on a 3-point attempt a few seconds later to cut it to 110-104. But former Rocket Corey Brewer made a 3-pointer before Lonzo Ball hit two free throws to make it 115-104.

Harden powered Houston on a night when Chris Paul had just eight points before leaving early in the fourth quarter with a sore left leg.

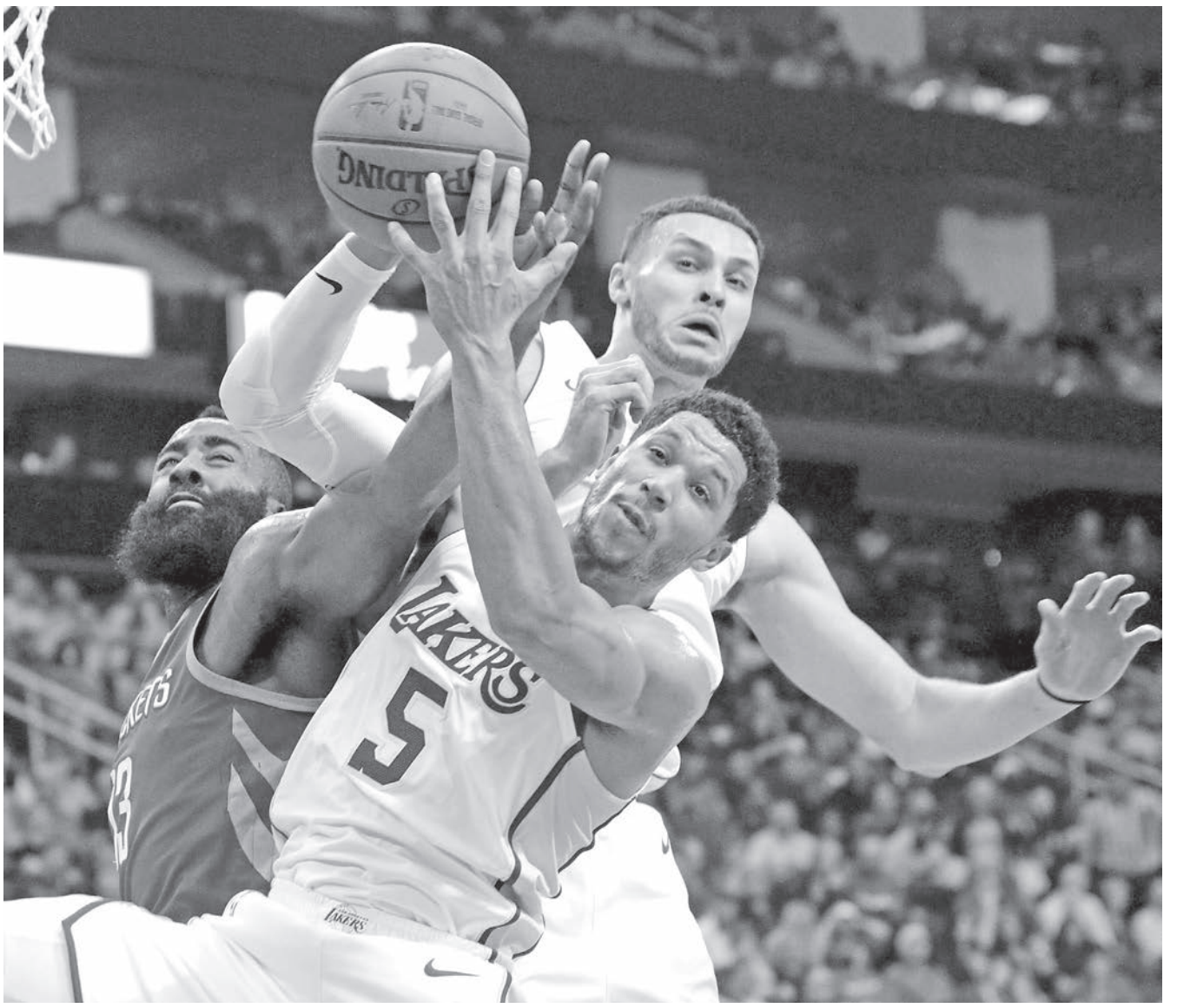
he Rockets made seven free throws down the stretch but hit just four field goals in the last eight minutes—all in the final 1:05.

"We didn't play defense at all today," Houston's Trevor Ariza said. "They got whatever they wanted and when that happens, you lose."

Kuzma was unstoppable in the first half, making all nine of his shots, including six 3-pointers. He cooled a bit after the break and finished 12 of 17 overall and 7 of 10 from deep.

The Lakers led 100-92 after a 3-pointer by Josh Hart with about nine minutes to go, but the Rockets scored the next eight points. Ariza led the way in that span, scoring five points and blocking a shot by Brandon Ingram.

The Rockets opened the third with a 6-1 run for their first lead of the game, 65-64, with about 9 1/2 minutes left in the quarter.



AP

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13), Los Angeles Lakers guard Josh Hart (5) and Los Angeles Lakers forward Larry Nance Jr. (7) battle for a rebound in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, in Houston.

Heat 90, Celtics 89

In Cleveland, Kelly Olynyk scored a career-high 32 points in his rousing return to Boston, and undermanned Miami hung on a victory.

On a night when the Celtics honored their former forward in his first game back, the popular Olynyk received a standing ovation from Boston fans and led the Heat to another win against the top team in the Eastern Conference. Josh Richardson had 19 points and six assists for Miami, which took two of three in the season series. The Heat ended Boston's 16-game winning streak earlier this season with a victory at home.

Olynyk signed with Miami as a free agent during the offseason. His previous high was 30 points on Dec. 15, 2014.

Kyrie Irving paced the Celtics with 33 points, but missed a jumper from the right wing that bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

Bulls 112, Magic 94

In Chicago, Denzel Valentine had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Nikola Mirotic had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Chicago beat Orlando for its seventh straight win.

The Bulls had lost 10 straight with Mirotic out of the lineup prior to his return Dec. 8, and they haven't lost since to improve to 10-20.

Nikola Vucevic scored 18 points for Orlando, which lost its sixth in a row.

Facing the league's fourth-worst scoring defense, the Bulls took a 43-27 lead with 9:05 left in the second quarter on Mirotic's layup, one of many easy baskets.

Thunder 107, Jazz 79

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help the Oklahoma City Thunder roll past the Utah Jazz 107-79 on Wednesday night.

Westbrook made 10 of 13 shots and had seven assists and four steals. Oklahoma City has won eight of 11 after a rough start to the season. The Thunder (16-15) are above .500 for the first time since early November.

Paul George scored 10 of his 18 points in the third quarter and Carmelo Anthony also scored 18 for Oklahoma City.

Rodney Hood scored 17 points for the Jazz, who have lost six of seven.

Breakout rookie Donovan Mitchell sat out with a right big toe contusion.

Raptors 129, Hornets 111

In Charlotte, DeMar DeRozan scored 18 of his 28 points after halftime and Toronto overcame a slow start to beat Charlotte for its fourth straight win.

Serge Ibaka scored 15 of his 24 points in the first half for Toronto, and OG Anunoby shot 6 of 7 from beyond the arc while scoring 20 points. Toronto has won 10 of 11 and is in third place in the Eastern Conference.

The Hornets got a career-best 32 points from reserve Jeremy Lamb but lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

Pacers 105, Hawks 95

In Atlanta, Victor Oladipo scored 23 points, Myles Turner had 20 and Indiana beat Atlanta.

Bojan Bogdanovic had 19 points as Indiana won for the second time in five games. The Pacers rallied from a sluggish start to shoot 48.8 percent.

Atlanta has yet to win consecutive games this season and dropped to 7-24. The Hawks bench outscored Indiana's 46-28, led by 18 points and nine rebounds from John Collins.

Kings 104, Nets 99

In New York, George Hill scored 22 points, Zach Randolph added 21 and Sacramento completed its first back-to-back sweep of the season by beating Brooklyn.

The Kings got off to a sizzling start following their victory in Philadelphia a night earlier, then held on after Brooklyn cut a 21-point lead to two with just over a minute to play.

The Nets missed a flurry of chances to tie before Hill finished it off with two free throws with 2.8 seconds remaining. Spencer Dinwiddie scored 16 points but was among the many Nets with poor-shooting nights.

Mavericks 110, Pistons 93

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. had 15 points and five assists in his return from a hip injury and Dallas beat Detroit.

The Mavericks, last in the Western Conference, won for just the second time in eight games while ending a three-game Detroit winning streak that followed seven straight losses by the Pistons.

Anthony Tolliver led Detroit with a season-high 18 points, going 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

Isaiah Thomas could be playing for Cavs next week

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Isaiah Thomas played Santa Claus on Wednesday. Soon, he'll be playing point guard for the Cavaliers.

Thomas said he could be on the floor in games as early as next week for Cleveland after being sidelined with a hip injury that knocked him out of last season's playoffs. Thomas has progressed to the point where he will be scrimmaging 5 on 5 in the next few days with the possibility of playing in games with the Cavs before the year ends.

"When that time comes to where I'll be out there, I'm sure everybody is going to know and I'll be out there playing the way I've always played," said Thomas, who hosted a holiday party for some area kids at the team's training facility. "I'm just trying to get as close as 100 percent as possible and to be out there to be special. Not just to be out there and be another body. However long that takes -- it might be next week, it might be a week after that. We don't know and we're really not trying to put a date on it because it just depends on how my recovery is.

"I'm ramping up my workouts, but at the same time it's how I feel the next day, and it's getting lighter and lighter, which is a good sign."

Thomas is as close as ever to making his debut with Cleveland, which acquired him last summer in the blockbuster trade that sent Kyrie Irving to Boston. Since training camp opened, the Cavs' timeline for Thomas was for him to be playing games by the end of December.

That now seems possible. The Cavs, who have won 18 of 20, host Chicago on Thursday and are expected to practice twice before their Christmas Day matchup against the Golden State Warriors, whom they've met in three straight Finals.

Cleveland has games in Sacramento and Utah next week before returning home on Jan. 2 against Portland. The next day, the Cavs will play in Boston, where Thomas spent more than two seasons and where he hoped to play longer before being traded.

Since the deal, Thomas has talked about being motivated to show the Celtics they were wrong to let him go.

Although he has not suited up for the Cavs, Thomas has been embraced by the city's fans. As a way of giving thanks for their support, he teamed with World Vision—a humanitarian aid organization he has partnered with for seven years—to host children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland at the party.

"The biggest thing is just putting smiles on these kids' faces," said Thomas, who played basketball and video games. "You really don't know what they're going through or what they don't have. It's about having fun today."

Thomas said he has been touched by the warm welcome he's gotten in Cleveland.

"It's genuine," he said. "I just like giving back no matter where I am. That's just who I am and that's what I've always been about, so I just try to reach kids and touch kids and show kids I'm just like them. I've come from a similar background and especially in the holiday season, it's about making others happy and putting smiles on other people's faces.

Giants acquire Longoria from Rays for 4 players

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Evan Longoria expects to win immediately with the San Francisco Giants, whose run of success in even years is well documented -- and the club's new third baseman knows all about that.

The Giants' brass realizes adding Longoria to the lineup and an already-talented infield gives San Francisco a far better chance of bouncing back from a surprising last-place season in the NL West.

An offense-producing third baseman the Giants sought this winter, Longoria was traded from Tampa Bay on Wednesday for outfielder Denard Span, star infield prospect Christian Arroyo and two minor league pitchers.

"I'm looking forward to bringing everything I can and more to the clubhouse and the organization and being back in the postseason and winning like I expect to do," Longoria said. "It's an even year coming up and I know the Giants win in even years. That I am looking forward to."

The position had been a priority for San Francisco, and Longoria's durability means so much, too. He has played at least 156 games in each of the past five years, all 162 in 2014, and also hit 20 or more homers in each of those five seasons.

"He's sorely needed and will be a great addition for us," Giants general manager Bobby Evans said.

It marked the first big offseason move by each organization.

Tampa Bay in effect is responsible for $14.5 million of the $88 million Longoria is owed, and the Rays took on $13 million in guaranteed money due Span.

Longoria had $86 million in remaining guaranteed salary and buyout as part of a contract that runs through 2022 and contains a 2023 club option. The $9.5 million in deferred money included in that total was converted to an assignment bonus payable by the Rays from 2025-29. Tampa Bay will give the Giants $2 million by this Dec. 31 to cover Longoria's assignment bonus and an additional $3 million by Oct. 31, 2022.

The 32-year-old leaves Tampa Bay as the longest-tenured player in franchise history, after spending 10 of his big league seasons in a Rays uniform. He is the club's leader with 1,435 games, 261 home runs and 892 RBI. Longoria started all 30 of the Rays' postseason games at third.

Longoria batted .261 with 20 homers and 86 RBI last season. The 2008 AL Rookie of the Year and three-time Gold Glover has played at least 156 games in each of the past five seasons and hit 20 or more home runs in all of those years.

Longoria grew up in Southern California as an Angels fan but has plenty of friends who cheer for the rival Dodgers. "I'm going to be saying a lot of sorries."

Also, he's getting off turf, noting, "I'm excited to be playing on grass."

In November 2012, Longoria received a $136.6 million, 10-year contract with Tampa Bay that added six guaranteed seasons and $100 million to his previous deal. If exercised, the option would make the agreement worth $144.6 million over 11 years. He will complete his 10th season of major league service on the second day of next season, which would have given him the right to approve any trade from the Rays as a 10-year veteran who spent five or more years with his current team.

AP

In this Sept. 22, 2017, file photo, Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria follows through on a solo home run against the Baltimore Orioles in the third inning of a baseball game, in Baltimore. The San Francisco Giants have acquired infielder Evan Longoria and cash from the Tampa Bay Rays.

Rays general manager Erik Neander said trading Longoria "was in the best long-term interest of our franchise."

Still, he was the face of a small-market franchise and meant so much to the city.

"The decision itself was one that was incredibly difficult for us to make," Neander said.

The 33-year-old Span has hit .283 with 60 homers and 432 RBI over 10 years in the majors, but San Francisco was looking for more athleticism and steady defense in the outfield. In fact, manager Bruce Bochy had approached Span about the possibility of playing left field going forward. Span led the Giants last season with 73 runs scored despite a stint on the 10-day disabled list. He previously played for the Nationals and the Twins.

Bochy expects Longoria to bat third or cleanup, and he can already envision Longoria as part of a top infield with Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford, second baseman Joe Panik and Brandon Belt at first.

"When you talk about the elite third basemen of the game, Evan's name is going to be there. He's been one of the most consistent third basemen in the game," Bochy said. "It's going to be one of the best infield defenses in the game."

Arroyo, a first-round draft pick out of high school in 2013 about an hour north of Tampa in Brooksville, was one of the Giants' top prospects but didn't play in the majors after June 2 because of a broken left hand. He batted .192 with three homers and 14 RBI in 34 games. The Rays have been watching him for years and believe he is making significant strides at the plate.

"That's the cost of doing business," Sabean said of sending Arroyo in the deal.

The Giants also sent right-hander Stephen Woods and left-hander Matt Krook to the Rays, who acquired third baseman Matt Duffy from the Giants at the 2016 trade deadline for Matt Moore. The left-handed Moore was dealt last week to Texas.

Manibusan gets SGA December Ace

Attorney General Edward Manibusan took the Saipan Golfers Association December Ace after placing runner-up in last month's competition at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Manibusan shot a net 69, four strokes behind top finisher Frank Castro, who handed the December Ace to the former as the latter had already won the September award. The 13-handicapper Castro carded a 37 on the front nine and 41 on the back for a gross 78 and net 65. Manibusan, a 4-handicapper, earned a gross 73, built around his 36 and 37 on the front and back nines, respectively.

Steve Balakrishna joined Castro and Manibusan in the Top 3 in the December Ace tournament held last Nov. 19 after firing a net 70. The 11-handicapper Balakrishna recorded a 39 in the first nine holes and a 42 in the last for a gross 81.

Manibusan

In the closest to the pin contest, the winners were Alex Tudela, Castro, Nick Sablan, and Joe Demapan on hole Nos. 6, 8, 12, and 15, respectively. John Lizama, on the other hand, topped the longest drive competition on No. 14, while Ray Salas had the same feat on No. 7. Meanwhile, with Manibusan getting the December Ace, he earned a slot to the SGA Ace of the Aces Tournament, joining early qualifiers Frances Sablan (January), John "Nanni" Cruz (February), Juan Lizama (March), Nick Sablan (April), Larry Deleon Guerrero (May), Das Krishnan (June), Balakrishna (July), Joe Demapan (August), Castro (September), Juan "Pan" Guerrero (October), and Tudela (November).

The SGA Ace of Aces will be played this Saturday at Kingfisher with a 9am tee time for the first round and 1pm for the second. Other SGA members can also join this weekend's two-round event, but they will only qualify for the No. 1 to No. 6 prizes, while the Ace of Aces title will be given to one of the 12 monthly winners. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Freeman not looking to extend drama with Saints coach

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—Devonta Freeman says he feels too good to harbor resentment against New Orleans coach Sean Payton.

Early in the fourth quarter of Atlanta's three-point win over the Saints two weeks ago, Freeman was stopped for no gain near the New Orleans sideline, and a frustrated Payton taunted him with a choking gesture.

But Freeman, who has battled concussions this season, says that's all in the past as he and the Falcons (9-5) prepare to visit the Saints (10-4) in an NFC South showdown.

"I'm just excited to be out there having fun and getting to compete and battle with my brothers every day," Freeman said. "It's a great feeling to be back out there. There's no reason to mess up a good thing."

Freeman knows there's too much riding on this game to get caught up in distractions. The Falcons can earn a playoff spot for the second straight year with a victory, and they can win consecutive division titles for the first time in their 52-year history by beating the Saints and then Carolina in regular-season finale Dec. 31.

With so much at stake, Freeman isn't concerned with trying to one-up Payton in Sunday's rematch.

"At the end of the day, it's all fun, it's all love," Freeman said Wednesday. "We all understand each other because we go through the same things, so I don't take it as disrespect at all."

Payton offered an apology during a conference call with Atlanta reporters.

"Listen, the mistake I made that night was letting my emotions get the best of me," Payton said. "It's the same thing that we talk about with our players all of the time. It wasn't good, and I felt like as that game went on, it even affected me in calling plays. I've got to better that way."

Freeman just wants to have a clear head. He's had two stints in the concussion protocol since signing a five-year contract extension with $22 million guaranteed in August.

He missed three preseason games and came back strong before getting knocked out early in a win last month over Dallas. Since getting cleared to return after a two-week absence, Freeman has looked like his vintage self the last three games, running 58 times for a 5-yard average and catching six passes for a 12.5 average.

"I think I mix it up pretty well," he said. "I can do it all. It all depends on the situation, down and distance, determining what kind of runner I'll be on that play, that game, that quarter. It's all about adjusting, and I just try to adjust as the game goes."

When he's in sync with Atlanta's zone blocking schemes, Freeman creates matchup problems with his running style. His 5-foot-8, 206-pound frame makes him tough to read behind big offensive linemen, and his ability to change direction in space makes him tough to tackle.

Defenders don't have enough time to get proper leverage in their technique, and even if they do bring him down, Freeman is adept at twisting and diving for extra yards.

"Just when you think he's going to change, he'll go right through and finish on the run," coach Dan Quinn said. "That kind of really embodies the toughness that he displays. He's really on top of his game right now."

He's actually been on top of his game since the start of 2015, ranking first in the NFL with 29 rushing touchdowns, fourth with 2,941 yards rushing and sixth in yards from scrimmage with 4,193. The Falcons drafted Freeman in the fourth round out of Florida State three years ago, but he didn't become a feature back until his second season.

"I'm a big fan of his style of play," quarterback Matt Ryan said. "He's special. The mix of elusiveness, his ability to cut and make guys miss, but also his ability to finish runs with power, to be able to run people over, run between the tackles, bounce it outside, catch the ball out of the backfield and pass-protect for us. He's a complete football player. We're really lucky to have him."

Goalkeeping clinic at KES tomorrow

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be holding a goalkeeping clinic tomorrow at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

The event will run from 8am to 9:30am and is free of charge. Newcomers are welcome to join the clinic, which will be facilitated by NMIFA staff members, Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong coaches, and players of the CNMI national youth teams.

This weekend's clinic for players in the U12 age group is the third of a series and will cover basic and advance techniques in goalkeeping. NMIFA is holding the series of clinics to create a big pool of goalkeepers who may represent the CNMI in future tournaments. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MT. CARMEL

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board in the 15th and 19th. Markus Toves drilled the other goal for the Knights in the 13th minute.

With its comfortable lead, Mt. Carmel had the luxury of shuffling its players to give its starters the much-deserved rest after a strong start and allow its role players to get the feel of the title game. GTC, on the other hand, stuck with its key players and although it made a couple of attempts, the Binadu simply could not convert them into goals.

Meanwhile, Megan Mae Elayda delivered the lone goal in Koblerville's title win over WSR. She scored in the first half and ended up making five this season to take the Golden Boot award presented at the conclusion of the two championship games.

Garapan's Kenny Laquian won the Golden Boot award in the boys division, while Mt. Carmel School's Vicente Reyes and Koblerville's Brinel Quitugua got the Golden Glove awards.

The Knights and Umangs were presented with the championship trophies, while Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff members also recognized the runners-up and third finishers in the league in both divisions.

Garapan placed third after beating WSR in the consolation match, 3-0, while GTC rounded out the Top 3 in the girls division after prevailing against Mt. Carmel in a shootout, 1-0.

POI

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Dindo Pablo tallied 9 of his 11 points in the second half to foil Shirley's repeated comeback bids. He registered Kanoa's last 3 points to seal the win.

Benjie Sison also hit double figures for Kanoa, posting 11 points, 7 of them came in the final half, while Carl Francisco canned two of the squad's last four field goals to deny Shirley's its first win.

First Game

Kanoa 48 — Pablo 11, Sison 11, Bustillo 8, Francisco 8, Tam 4, Encarna 2, Joab 2, Patricio 2.

Shirley's 44 — Jugos 20, Alonzo 8, Nicdao 4, Metran 4, Bordon 3, Drillon 3, Anatacio 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-19, 48-44.

Second Game

Fiesta 45 — Ngirarois 15, Nonato 13, Esdrelon 6, Quizon 5, Macoto 4, Francisco 2.

Saipan Tribune 42 — D. Ong 16, Edralin 12, Usi 4, Galarion 4, M. Ong 2, Calibo 2, Lapuz 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-19, 45-42.

Third Game

POI 63 — Arago 18, Nakashima 11, Santos 10, Pascual 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Bait 4, Yu 4, Tenepere 3, Kim 2.

Warriors 60 — Echavez 16, Jinang 13, Fujihira 12, Benavente 12, Riungel 4, Elieisar 2.

Scoring by halves: 32-39, 63-60.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

POI Aviation's Lester Pascual, right, pulls up for a baseline jumper against the Lower Base Warriors' Eliesar Kenty during the second quarter of their game in the TanHoldings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

M-LEAGUE

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turn out, especially we will be playing for the championship," Takano said in an interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

"This will be a test of character for our boys—both from the Teen Ayuyus and TanHoldings sides. We will play using our system and make the adjustments as the game progresses. Our players have been playing high level soccer and we hope to keep it that way and be mentally and physical ready," Takano added.

Takano also reminded the Teen Ayuyus not only to focus their defense against their teammates playing for TanHoldings, but also to the adult players of the latter.

"They have very good adult players and that's their advantage, so we have to be consistent with our defense and cover every player and position," Takano said.

As for TanHoldings, Angeles hopes his teammates will capitalize on every possession.

"We have to be very aggressive and not waste those opportunities to score. If we lose the ball, we have to try very hard to get it back and attack. On defense, everyone must do their share, provide help if needed," said Angeles, who is also counting on the team's chemistry to score a repeat against the Teen Ayuyus and take this season's championship.

TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus met only once before the finals with the former earning a 2-0 victory in their elimination round game.

2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League Opening

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan players and their coach pose for a photo during the opening week of the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Dec. 9

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Coffee Shop players and their supporters gather for a photo.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

POI Aviation is in full force during the photo-op at the opening ceremony.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta Resort & Spa's Arjay Nonato, left, unloads a shot against a Shirley's defender.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players of defending champion Kanoa pose with their muse.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Lower Base Warriors are joined by their young muse for a group photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Tribune players pose with their muse Kimberly Bautista.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Tribune's Kevin Calibo pulls up for a baseline jumper against two POI Aviation defenders during their game in the opening week of the league.

Lakers overcome Harden's 51 to end Rockets' streak

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Giants acquire Longoria from Rays for 4 players

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Mt. Carmel, Koblerville triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School and Koblerville Elementary School reigned supreme in the 2017 PSS/NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League after shutting down their respective opponents yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

In the boys division finals, the Knights topped Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 4-0, while Koblerville edged out William S. Reyes Elementary School in the girls title match, 1-0.

Mt. Carmel was right on target off the bat, leaving GTC with little room to keep up with the dominant Knights in the one-sided finale. The eventual champions scored all their goals in the first half behind the hat trick of Andrew Sablan. Sablan got his first goal in the 10th minute and the last two in back-to-back fashion, as he hit the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School players and coaches pose for a photo after beating Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 4-0, in the boys finals of the 2017 PSS/NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Koblerville Elementary School, right, and William S. Reyes Elementary School players fight for possession during their title game in the girls division of the 2017 PSS/NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League yesterday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Koblerville won, 1-0.

M-League finals: Teammates turn into foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The TanHoldings Football Club and Teen Ayuyus' title match tomorrow will be interesting to watch as teammates turned into foes to battle for bragging rights in the Division A of the M-League.

Game time is at 2:30pm at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

The Teen Ayuyus will be bannered by Sunjoon Tenorio, Dai Podziewski, Chris Aninzo, Anthony Fruit, Louie Calayag, Thaiphi Austria, and John Michael Rojas. These players are members of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team and just came from a five-day training camp in Hong Kong. J.J. Takano will be calling the shots for the Teen Ayuyus in absence of head coach Michiteru Mita, who is off-island.

Tenorio and company will be going up against the TanHoldings' side that also has several members of the U18 national squad, which saw action in training matches in Hong Kong. Hark Galarion, James Ermitanio, Ryan Relucio, Eun Syu Hahn, and Joshua De Leon will be pitted against their Teen Ayuyus teammates. Jersh Angeles, who with Takano made up the Teen Ayuyus' coaching staff, is TanHoldings' team captain.

"The opposing teams have lots of players who are familiar with each other's game so it will be pretty interesting how the match will

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings, right, and Okadaya players chase the ball during the second half of their semis game in the Division A of the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. TanHoldings won, 9-0, and will dispute the division title against the Teen Ayuyus tomorrow.

POI rallies past Warriors for second win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

POI Aviation made it two in a row after a come-from-behind 63-60 victory over the Lower Base Warriors in the third game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

POI outgunned the Warriors in the second half, 31-21, to bounce back from a 32-39 halftime deficit and steal the win that put the former on top of the team standings, joining defending champion Kanoa Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Kanoa played against Shirley's Coffee Shop in the curtain-raiser and posted a 48-44 triumph, while Fiesta defeated *Saipan Tribune* in the second game, 45-42.

In the nightcap, POI drew at least two field goals apiece from five players in the second half to wipe out the Warriors' lead. Ferdie Arago led POI's better offense in the final 20 minutes of play, scoring 10 of his 18 points in that period. Nak Nakashima and Jesse Santos also delivered for POI as they finished with 11 and 10 markers, respectively.

Edong Echavez had 16 points for the Warriors, who dropped to a 0-2 record.

Meanwhile, Fiesta also redeemed itself in the second half after falling behind by as much as 11 in the opening frame and the first few minutes of the last.

Arjay Nonato poured all his 13 points in the second half after going cold in the first, while Paul Quizon knocked in a crucial triple in the homestretch to lift Fiesta to the 3-point win. Troy Ngirarois also helped Fiesta's cause and top-scored for his squad after making 15 markers.

In the first game, veteran

See POI on Page 42